

Cuir and questioning
San Francisco has a leather conference
and Denver has a leathersman politician.
page 19

**On a (right) wing
and a (school) prayer.**
Wayne Friday burns Bush.
page 9



Draw of 'Joy Luck'
TheatreWorks' new take
on 'The Joy Luck Club.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 15 • 15 April 1999

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 28 years

OHMY! Queer kids in town!

by Cynthia Laird

Hundreds of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender (LGBT), and straight high school students will come together to take a stand against homophobic violence and intolerance, promote unity, and empower themselves at the third annual Overcoming Homophobia Meeting for Youth (OHMY) Conference at the Urban School in San Francisco this Saturday, April 17.

The free event is produced and run by youth and is sponsored by the Lavender Youth Information and Recreation Center (LYRIC), the Bay Area Gay/Straight Alliance Network, and the Urban School.

Kaiya Wertheim, a 16-year-old from Oakland, and one of the organizers, said, "This empowering event will give youth the opportunity to meet other young people from the entire Bay Area who are committed to combating homophobia."

The OHMY Conference will give Bay Area students of all sexual orientations the necessary knowledge to form and maintain Gay/Straight Alliance clubs in schools, build community, and further their involvement in activism. Workshops at the conference cover issues such as coming out, gay and lesbian history, racism and homophobia, and health issues.

"This kind of conference is really important right now because everyone deserves to be safe, confident, and proud of who they are," said Haley Ausserer, another conference organizer from Menlo Park.

Matt Wolf participated in last year's conference, which spurred him to become a political and social activist. At the conference, he learned how to start a Gay/Straight Alliance club at his high school on the Peninsula and this year he plans to bring a contingent of students to OHMY.

"Bay Area schools have made a lot of headway in promoting diversity," said Sydney King, a teacher at Skyline High School in Oakland. "However, gay and lesbian issues are often ignored. This conference creates a space for youth to come together and gain knowledge to bring back to their schools and communities." ▼

OHMY runs from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Urban School, 1563 Page Street, at Masonic. To pre-register online, go to www.incite.org/OHMY. For information, call (415) 703-6150, ext. 39.

Current, former SFAF workers allege bias

by Cynthia Laird

At least 12 complaints of alleged employment discrimination by current and former workers at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) have been filed with federal, state, and local agencies, alleging a pattern of lower pay for Latino/a employees as well as hardball tactics by top administrators in dealing with the workers.

Foundation officials and their attorneys from Morrison & Foerster had until Tuesday, April 13 to respond to several of the complaints filed with the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (HRC). Additionally, the HRC convened a mediation hearing Tuesday afternoon in an effort to settle a complaint by Erik Dubón, the former manager of SFAF's *Vida y Movimiento* program, which the foundation scrapped last July.

A finding of discrimination by the HRC is a matter of public record, and could lead to the imposition of fines, the revocation of city contracts, and debarment from proposing on future city contracts.

Dubón, who was employed at SFAF from January 1993 until July 31, 1998 – the last day of the *Vida* program – submitted evidence alleging deliberate harassment, dis-



Erik Dubón

crimination, and intimidation by SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen after she reportedly left a hand-written note taped to the mailbox at Dubón's house on a Sunday morning last August.

Among Dubón's charges in his HRC complaint are that he was paid a much lower salary than other managers with the same level of responsibilities; that he was treated differently than any other manager when SFAF reorganized and created the HIV Services and Treatment Support (HSTS) division; and that he was given conflicting information from upper management about his future with the foundation after *Vida* folded.

Apparently, things came to a head last July, as the *Vida* program was in its last days. Dubón wanted the job of team leader in housing operations rather than director of information, referral, and volunteer services because, he stated, he was told by SFAF Director of Programs Rene Durazzo that he would have to deal with "difficult personnel issues" involving "troublesome employees."

"All these complaints were of discrimination and came from Hispanic employees," Dubón stated in his complaint with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.

Dubón stated in his complaints that he was told to accept the housing job on a temporary basis and that he would have to apply for it. "No other manager or employee in

page 20 ►

Brownie Mary dies, but lives on in memorials this week

by Mark Norby

Mary Jane Rathbun was many things to many people: activist, caregiver, co-founder of the now-defunct Cannabis Buyers Club, baker to a generation riddled by pain and agony from the complications of AIDS, and friend to all



Brownie Mary Rathbun

who felt her deep compassion. Known affectionately among her community as "Brownie Mary," Rathbun died Saturday evening, April 10 in San Francisco at the age of 77.

Rathbun had been hospitalized off and on over the past nine months after suffering a fall in her San Francisco home last August, which led to neck and spinal surgery at Mt. Zion Medical Center in San Francisco. Although the surgery was successful, she never fully recovered and she spent her last months in the Hospice and Palliative Care Unit at Laguna Honda Hospital.

Rathbun was at the forefront on the local, state, and national levels in the fight to legalize medical marijuana, working with her devoted friend and activist cohort, Dennis Peron.

"Mary adopted every gay kid in San Francisco," Peron told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "She was there before we knew what AIDS was, when it was referred to as 'GRID,' and even back then she always had a batch of brownies there to relieve the pain of her kids."

Peron and other friends of Rathbun have planned a vigil and memorial of remembrance at 18th and Castro streets this Saturday, April 17 at 8 p.m. All are welcome and organizers aim to inspire all those touched by Rathbun to continue her good work and to continue the fight to legalize medical marijuana in all parts of the country.

Ironically, a benefit variety show was planned for Monday, April 19 by 'Make It So'

Productions at San Francisco's Theater Rhinoceros. The benefit was to help alleviate the financial burden Rathbun suffered due to escalating medical bills. "I am very saddened by the loss of Brownie Mary," said Steve Murray, who heads 'Make It So' Productions. "She was a kind lady who always had a few sharp words

page 21 ►

INSIDE

BAR Talk	46
Classifieds	24
Crime & Punishment	17
Dykeotomy	10
GLAAD	12
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	38
Obituaries	21
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	40
Out There	30
Personals	48
Sports Complex	22

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS

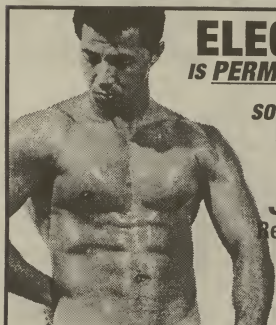
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Gays denounce bathhouse ban at lively Health Commission meeting

by Richard Cornwall

Security guards removed two protesters from the a meeting of the San Francisco Health Commission Tuesday, April 6 after Health Director Dr. Mitchell Katz orally delivered his director's report to commissioners.

The protesters, David Pasquarelli and Michael Bellefontaine of ACT UP/San Francisco, loudly complained that Katz failed to acknowledge in his lengthy report the March 24 community meeting to discuss concerns over the closure of gay bathhouses. When the protesters refused to be quiet, commission President Lee Ann Monfredini directed guards to remove them from the meeting.

Monfredini and Katz then acknowledged it would be appropriate for Katz to add a verbal description of the March 24 meeting, although Monfredini said that Katz had fully informed commission Vice President Roma Guy and herself about it prior to the public meeting. Commissioner David J. Sanchez, Jr. voiced concern over

the issue not being on the agenda, and argued it was inappropriate to have it raised, but Monfredini ruled that it was worth letting members of the public voice their concerns with Katz's report.

Katz then characterized the earlier meeting as having been taken over and dominated by people who argued that HIV does not cause AIDS, a characterization that allowed him to ridicule the meeting and the protesters. (In fact, few of the speakers at the March 24 meeting had anything to do with the issue of whether HIV causes AIDS. Most were concerned with the role that bathhouses play in gay men's lives and the role they can play in public health efforts to reduce the incidence of sexually transmitted diseases.) The report was followed by public comment by five people, limited to three minutes each.

Stephen Filandrinos argued that the issue is central for gay men, prompting Monfredini to compliment him on his good behavior, comparing and contrasting his presentation to the protest by Pasquarelli and Bellefontaine.

Dr. Stephen Murray told the commission that a large body of research supports the proposition that bathhouses can play a positive role in reducing transmission of sexually transmitted diseases. Commissioners eagerly accepted a two-page handout of references to the research that Murray offered to support his statements.

Reid Condit spoke of the length of the struggle to get the commission to grapple publicly and clearly with the bathhouse issue. The only notable reaction was from Commissioner Edward A. Chow, who asked Katz to report at some unspecified future date on what regulations the Department of Public Health (DPH) has on "sex clubs, etc." He seemed to fumble a bit for words and avoided saying "bathhouse."

The commissioners took no further action, but the issue will be placed on the agenda for a future commission meeting. ▼

Full disclosure: The author spoke at the meeting in support of opening the bathhouses.

Earthquake anniversary party to help raise funds for LGBT comm. center

by Cynthia Laird

The Friends of 1800 Market Street and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center Project (CCP) will join forces again for a fundraising event this Sunday, April 18, where they will observe the 93rd anniversary of the 1906 San Francisco

earthquake and fire.

It is a fitting event for the groups to commemorate. The Friends of 1800 Market sprang up in late 1997 after the CCP board announced that it would demolish the Fallon Building, the only structure left on Market Street that survived the famous quake. The group rallied community opposition against razing the 105-year-old

Queen Anne Victorian to make way for a completely new LGBT community center, and last March the CCP's board of directors rescinded their vote and began working with preservationists to have the building landmarked. Since then, the Friends have actively helped raise money for a \$10.7 million, 40,000 square foot community center that will incorporate the Fallon Building in its design.

"The Friends have raised close to \$25,000, and this event should put us over that," Friends co-chair Gary Goad told the Bay Area Reporter.

The event at the elegant Westfield mansion — also the home of preservationist and activist Jim Siegel — marks the second such fundraiser the group has done; Friends held a similar event last April at the Haas-Lilienthal mansion. Like last year, Sunday's benefit includes live entertainment, wines, refreshments, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$50 per person. ▼

The benefit takes place from 3 to 6 p.m. at 1198 Fulton. For more info, call (415) 364-1626.

Clarification:

The founders of the Lost Coast Brewery mentioned in the April 1 story "Sister Scrum and Suds," Barbara Groom and Wendy Pound, are business partners but are not currently life partners. The B.A.R. regrets any confusion the story may have caused.

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Wilmes murder suspect's trial Monday

by Cynthia Laird

Accused murderer Edgard Mora is scheduled to go on trial Monday, April 19 in San Francisco Superior Court on charges he killed gay city resident Brian Wilmes last March. Mora has pleaded not guilty to a charge of murder and a misdemeanor charge of assault against a witness. The murder charge carries a hate crime enhancement.

Assistant District Attorney Murlene Randle said that while the case is set to start Monday morning, it actually won't get under way until a courtroom has been assigned. Once that happens, there may be motions to be

heard before a jury is empaneled. "We may or may not get started that day," Randle said, "but it is scheduled for trial."

The trial is the latest step in the case, following a preliminary hearing last November where Superior Court Judge Ellen Chaitin ruled there was enough evidence for trial. During the preliminary hearing, Wilmes's friend Timothy Carroll testified that Mora shook Wilmes after throwing a single punch that knocked Wilmes to the ground outside of the Loading Dock, a gay bar on Mission Street, on March 12, 1998. Wilmes, 45, died of head injuries two days later. According to the testimony of Carroll, who was with Wilmes at the time of the attack, Mora

yelled variations of the phrase "Do you want a piece of me, faggot" four times during the few minutes leading up to and following Mora's single punch to Wilmes's mouth.

At the preliminary hearing last year, Chaitin said Carroll's testimony about the shaking showed there was "sufficient implied malice" to make Mora stand trial on the murder charge.

Other witnesses, including Mora's girlfriend Silvia Vanegas, testified at the hearing that they did not see Mora shake Wilmes. However, Vanegas also testified she didn't see Mora punch Wilmes as she sat in their car across the street rolling up a window. By the time she looked over, she testified, Mora was standing by Wilmes. The two left the scene and police arrested Mora after tracking down the car.

A homeless man, Michael Gillespie, also witnessed the incident and testified he was hit by Mora before the alleged attack on Wilmes. Gillespie got the license plate number of the car and turned the information over to police. ▼

The trial starts at 9 a.m. at the Hall of Justice, 850 Bryant Street, in Dept. 22; it will be moved once a courtroom is assigned.

CUAV announces new executive line-up

by Cynthia Laird

Community United Against Violence (CUAV), the San Francisco agency dedicated to serving the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community, has a new executive director. Openly lesbian Ruth Bukowiecki started the job in late March and was at CUAV's news conference last Tuesday, April 6 when the agency released anti-gay hate crime statistics for 1998 that showed anti-gay violence is up across the country.

Additionally, CUAV filled its other vacant position from within the agency; Jennifer Rakowski was promoted to director of client and advocacy services. Bukowiecki replaces Lester Olmstead-Rose, who resigned in late January; Rakowski replaces Greg Merrill, who also left the agency at the same time.

CUAV's annual budget is \$900,000; Bukowiecki's annual salary is \$47,500; the salary for Rakowski's position was listed at \$36,000.

Bukowiecki told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she has 10 years of experience fighting violence against women and children. Most recently, she served as managing director at DataCenter in Oakland, where she did strategic and operational planning and budgeting for the progressive research and international publications center.

Before moving to the Bay Area, Bukowiecki worked in Wisconsin, where she was community services operations manager at

Planned Parenthood. Prior to that, she worked as deputy director at Project Equality of Wisconsin, where she provided on site technical assistance and written resources on equal employment opportunity and affirmative action to businesses throughout the state.

"I think I have a good combination of experience with anti-violence and using my skills in leadership," she told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Bukowiecki also served as director for the Waukesha County Victim Assistance Program and was development coordinator for the Women's Coalition of Milwaukee. She has a bachelor of arts degree in social work and political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and has completed coursework for a master's degree.

At CUAV, Bukowiecki will be responsible for the day to day operations of the agency that provides services for victims of anti-gay crimes and victims of same-sex domestic violence. She said she's been getting acquainted with CUAV staff members and is looking forward to the challenges of her job.

"We're recruiting new board members," Bukowiecki said. "CUAV has a lot of good programs, and some good energy. I think we have a bright future and a good past." ▼

CUAV's 24-hour crisis line is (415) 333-HELP (4357). For other information, call (415) 777-5500.

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Adam Colton	Sara Waddell Lewenstein	Owens/Lawrence Wong)
Steven Cozza	Mary Midgett	*these groups are one nomination
Rev. Don Fado	Rev. Jim Mitulski	

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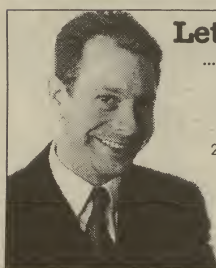
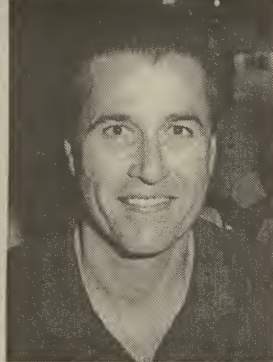
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The art of politics



At their organization's first fundraiser of the season, members of the board of Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action (LAGADA) helped create a friendly atmosphere at Ruby's Art Gallery in the Mission (at 19th and Valencia). Mayor Willie Brown and other local politicians dropped by for the festivities. Pictured (L to R) are Co-chair George Smith III, Treasurer Duane Cramer, Co-chair Eddie Dobbins Jr., and Recording Secretary Ron Paschal.

Queer leftists to meet in San Jose

by Liz Highleyman

Local queer political activists will host a one-day forum entitled Queer Revolution: To the Left and Over the Barricades this Saturday, April 17.

Organizers said that the conference will look back into history as well as into the future. The gathering will feature open group discussions on issues such as the history of queers and the left, sexual fluidity, gender nonconformity, the queer labor movement, race/class/ability differences, and queer youth.

According to organizers, the

murder of Matthew Shepard last October spurred a resurgence of queer activism and thought. In San Jose, students, faculty and staff at San Jose State University formed a new group, which, like the conference, is named Queer Revolution. Kevin, one of the student organizers, who only identified himself by his first name, said it was necessary to "think outside the triangle" to combine queer concerns with other social issues.

The unifying theme of the conference is revolution, and envisioning alternatives to capitalism and heterosexism. Organizers expect attendees from across the left of the political spectrum — anarchists, Marxists, progressives, and liberals.

The day will conclude with a keynote lecture by Harry Hay, a co-founder in the 1950s of the Mattachine Society — the earliest gay rights group in America — and later of the Radical Faeries.

The one-day conference is intended to lay the ground for future organizing, including a larger conference featuring Barbara Smith, founder of Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press. ▼

The forum will take place on April 17 from 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Costanoan Room at San Jose State University. For more information, contact queerevolution@hotmail.com or call (408) 267-8707.

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GLF's 30th anniversary this Friday, with book reading, panel discussion

by Cynthia Laird

A panel discussion to commemorate the founding of the Gay Liberation Front (GLF) 30 years ago will take place this Friday, April 16 at Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, featuring several people who were active in the movement at the time. Dubbed the "Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of Gay Liberation," the event is free and open to the public.

Tommi Avicolli Mecca, who was active in GLF Philadelphia, is helping put on the event. The

panel includes Blackberri, who was active in the Santa Fe, New Mexico area; Nikos Diaman, who was part of GLF San Francisco; and Martha Shelley, who was with New York GLF. Also, author Karla Jay will read from her new book, *Tales of the Lavender Menace*.

GLF started in New York immediately following the Stonewall Riots in June 1969; from there it quickly spread to Philadelphia and other cities. ▼

The reading and panel start at 7:30 p.m. at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street. For a review of Jay's book, see page 37.

Migden domestic partner bill clears first hurdle

by M.R. Richards
B.A.R. Capitol
Correspondent

The Domestic Partners Registry Bill, AB 26, authored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), passed out of the Assembly Health Committee Tuesday, April 13, and heads next to the Assembly Appropriations Committee, probably in a couple of weeks.

The bill would provide for the

registration of domestic partnerships with the Secretary of State, and would ensure hospital visitation rights for domestic partners; it would also require healthcare insurance companies to provide coverage for domestic partners of employees, subscribers, insureds, or policyholders who request to include their domestic partners as dependents.

Opposition to the bill was carried by Randy Thomasson of the Capitol Resource Institute, who was joined by two other speakers. ▼

'Lyin' Lou' fights Kuehl's 222

by M.R. Richards
B.A.R. Capitol
Correspondent

Last Wednesday, April 7, Assembly Bill 222, the Dignity for All Students bill, authored by Assemblywoman Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica), passed in the Assembly Education Committee on a vote of 10 to 7 and will be heard next in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The bill would add sexual orientation to the education codes that protect other groups against discrimination.

Education codes currently prohibit arbitrary discrimination based upon race, gender, religion, and disability and are meant to ensure a safe and secure learning environment for students. AB 222 would insure the safety of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students in schools as well.

At noon, prior to the hearing, Kuehl held a press conference to outline the intent of the bill. When asked about a demonstration on the west steps of the Capitol staged by Lou Sheldon of the Traditional Values Coalition, Kuehl flatly stated, "he's an idiot."

In an interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Kuehl discussed Sheldon's threats to legislators, his raising money for a radio adver-

tising campaign against the bill, and his predictions about dire consequences to religion, religious people, and religious schools with passage of AB 222.

"The first time around with this bill, I was generous toward him," Kuehl said. "The second time I was neutral but this time I'm angry."

"Every single claim he's made about the bill is false and I think it's pitiful for a so-called man of the cloth to attempt to build opposition to legislation by lying about it. It's a one sentence bill that adds sexual orientation to the list in the Ed[ucation] codes."

"He claims the bill calls for quotas, and there are no quotas - every claim he makes is false and it's just dishonest to be spending the money of people of faith for these false broadcasts," Kuehl said.

"That's why I'm calling him Lying Lou."

The Sheldon rally on the west steps featured flags and red, white and blue signs proclaiming "No Special Rights." Oddly, most of the participants were recently arrived Russian evangelicals who fled religious and cultural oppression in their homeland, where they were denied jobs, housing, and other protections. A gay staffer observed bitterly, "Here we are being picketed by the plaid-

with-prints-set wearing their babushkas and carrying nasty signs against citizens of this country. They don't seem to be able to make the connections about oppression when it's about someone else. I'm ashamed of myself, but I feel like telling them to go the hell back to Russia if they're going to become religious oppressors in this country - we sure as hell wouldn't get away with this crap in their country."

Those demonstrators who could speak English seemed to hold the belief that the LGBT community would somehow threaten or harm their children.

Behind the scenes maneuvering got AB 222 out of committee, but freshman Democrats are being subjected to systematic attacks and threats by "people of faith" who are inundating district and Capitol offices with telephone calls and faxes as well as threats of picketing and reprisals at the polls. Participants are being instructed by the Capitol Resource Institute to tell legislators to "fight not only AB 222 but also AB 1001 and the rest of the gay agenda bills."

Those activities are expected to increase as other domestic partners bills - AB 26 and AB 107, and SB 75 and 118 and AB 1001 and SB 1260 - begin to move through committee hearings. ▼

Health promotion series for queer youth at Dimensions Clinic

by Cynthia Laird

Dimensions, a local clinic for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQQ) youth, is sponsoring a series of free educational events aimed at improving the health of queer young people by encouraging a frank and open discussion about topics usually considered taboo.

All young people 25 and under who identify as LGBTQQ are welcome to attend.

The health promotion workshops take place at the Castro-Mission Health Center on three Thursdays in April and May, with the next one entitled "Relationships: The good, the bad, and the ugly" scheduled for April 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. The session will focus on teenage years, when young people are just beginning to experience relationships. In the workshop, Lisa Fujie-Parks, with Community United Against Violence (CUAV), will be joined by nationally acclaimed writer and lecturer Frank Strona and Dimensions peer health educator Frank Aranda. The three will encourage an open discussion about queer relationships, relationship violence, structuring non-traditional relationships, dates, living single, and breakups.

"Young people have always struggled with issues such as sex and sexuality, and many professionals are unwilling or unable to honestly and openly discuss these health concerns with young people," said Lawrence Ozoa, of the Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center (LYRIC), one of Dimensions' collaborating organizations. "Queer youth and young people questioning their

sexual identity face additional obstacles to accessing care, which the clinic hopes to address."

Dimensions is open every Thursday from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Castro-Mission Health Center. Appointments are available, but not required. The clinic is run by a collaboration of LYRIC, Health Initiatives For Youth (HIFY), the Castro-Mission Health Center, New Leaf Services for Our Community, the Larkin Street Youth Center, and the Department of Public Health's Lesbian and Gay

Health Services and Special Programs for Youth. Dimensions provides queer and questioning young people access to comprehensive medical care including HIV testing, peer health education, mental health services, case management, sexually transmitted disease (STD) screening, and routine check-ups.

The two workshops next month are:

• "Body Art: Branding, piercing, tattooing, and more" on May

page 23 ►

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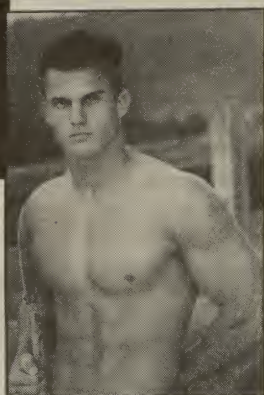


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Volume 29, Number 15
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OPEN FORUM

Tea and sympathy

Every year at this time we are forced to consider the taxation/representation question that first forced American Colonists to consider breaking away from England. Those early settlers decided that, dammit, any system that takes people's money in taxes had better give something in return, and it's still a good principle 223 years later.

We don't mind *taxation*, honestly, except for the paperwork (even the software that once navigated through the morass has gotten too complicated and enervating to deal with unless you have a Prozac drip in one arm and an amphetamine drip in the other). Some people resent the hell out of taxation — any taxation — but we remind ourselves that, in theory at least, we're *buying* something with the money we send to Washington and Sacramento. In fact, we feel many of the same emotions that wash over mortgage payers each month, paying an investment on something expensive — but very much worth it in the long run.

The problem is the *representation* part of the equation. When we are forced to consider how little respect we get for the money we spend, just because we're gay, we feel a lot like the colonists at the Boston Tea Party. Why are we constantly reminded by the lawmakers who spend our tax dollars that they consider us unworthy of any benefits?

Some legislators complain, for instance, that domestic partnerships would be an unfair burden on the treasuries, conveniently ignoring that *we contribute to those treasuries*. (And also ignoring that the argument has been successfully rebutted; not that it should matter, but the costs of domestic partnerships are never as high as the right wing predicts.) Ironically, many of those fiscal watchdogs belong to groups with names that hark back to those "no taxation without representation" days, and proudly call themselves "conservatives," yet feel no need to conserve any of those basic guiding principles. At least, not when those principles apply to queers.

If you think of your taxes as mortgage payments on the home we call America, you should also defend that home with the zeal of any property owner. Don't let anyone take away your rightful place, and defend it as though you were protecting

future generations. Because the truth is, you are.

One person who understood those concepts was Mary Jane Rathbun, or as she was better known, Brownie Mary. Her death last week saddens everyone who knew her (and, we suspect, thousands who didn't). That said, it is somewhat comforting to know she has finally escaped the pain that was her constant companion for the last nine months.

Brownie Mary didn't need to be reminded that she was part of America, whether right wing hysterics liked it or not, and she fearlessly protected the vision of America she held. With a blithe and blissful lack of respect for some very stupid laws, Rathbun made her mark from the earliest days of the epidemic as a baker of marijuana brownies for people with AIDS. Back then there were no other drugs that worked as well as cannabis at suppressing nausea and pain — and nearly two decades later, there still aren't — so she took matters into her own hands, cooked up dozens and dozens of life-saving confections, and de-

livered them to the men and women who needed them most. She called those patients her kids, and they called her a savior.

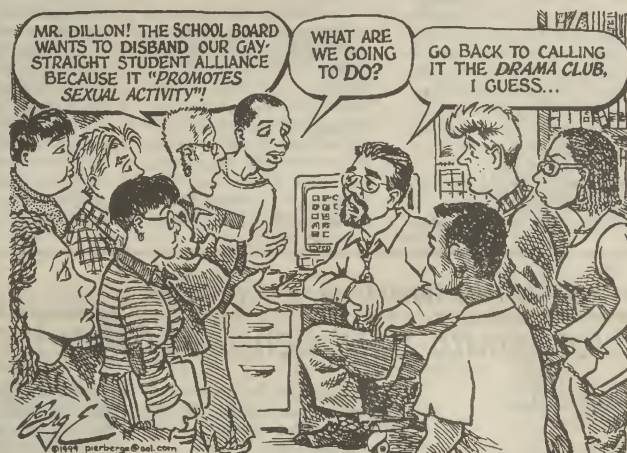
As she got in trouble, which was inevitable, she stood up to the law and put a human face to the drive to provide the medication her kids needed. Perhaps more than any other single person, she was responsible for the repeal of restrictions on medical marijuana (although much more remains to be done to determine how patients can grow and/or buy their stuff without fear of arrest) and for making a younger generation politically active.

We will miss Brownie Mary (even though, to be perfectly honest, we never sampled one of her baked goods). We know the world could use more like her: a tough-talking, opinionated, big-hearted, tough, gruff, patriot whose tea parties were more legendary even than that famous one in Boston Harbor.

We will honor her memory this Saturday night at 8 p.m. at Castro and 18th streets.

Join us. You deserve it. After all, you just paid your taxes, didn't you? ▼

Editorial



Where's the fun in activism?

by Stephen S. Bayer

In its editorial and news coverage of the recent rally against hate crimes held in the Castro, the *Bay Area Reporter* blamed the disappointingly low turnout on the political apathy of the gay and lesbian community. While I believe that community involvement and participation should always be strongly encouraged, I suggest that it is the politically active segment of the gay community that has failed the non-politically active, rather than the reverse. I don't mean to disparage the obvious hard work and good intentions of those individuals who organized the rally and who also perform countless hours of other political work. However, before anyone issues a blanket condemnation of the community for failing to satisfy the expectations of a relatively small group of political organizers and activists, perhaps we should consider the possibility that many people are politically disengaged for good reasons, even if they cannot fully comprehend or articulate those reasons. I don't claim to have all of the answers but I do offer some observations and concrete suggestions.

Political organizing meetings tend to be long, tedious, process-oriented affairs. Each individual comes with her or his own agenda and insists on making sure that everyone else in the room hears and validates it on at least three separate occasions. This kind of democratic decision-making is important, no doubt, and some people are actually stimulated by it. Alas, many more people are not; at the very least, it works your nerves

and, at worst, leads to boredom and burnout. At political rallies, 25 different speakers say the same thing 25 different ways while we, the community, are expected to act like a studio audience, remaining appropriately silent through each long speech and applauding appropriately at each rallying cry. This breeds passivity.

How about the notions that political activism should be fun and personally engaging?

As an alternative form of political organizing and mobilization, consider the wonderful Easter party in the Castro sponsored by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence who invited the community to celebrate their 20th anniversary with them. While the Sisters did not intend to pick a fight with the Catholic Church, they got one nonetheless, and the attendant controversy and media publicity it stirred up virtually ensured a blockbuster turnout. For every single person who attended the Sisters' party that day, simply showing up was a political statement. And they had a fun time doing it too! In the process, hopefully, their consciousness was raised about a variety of issues, and they felt prouder of their community.

Our political leaders and organizations could do worse than take a page from the Sisters' playbook in order to stir the dormant political activism in our community. And what more necessary time to do so when so many in our own community are still unaware that a hateful, anti-gay measure, the so-called Knight initiative, which

would forbid recognition of same-sex marriages performed in other states, is on the March 2000 presidential primary ballot? Assuming that most gays and lesbians, whether they personally want to get married or not, wish to see those who do receive the same recognition and privileges that different-sex couples receive, how can we make our community more aware of this mean-spirited measure and get them politically involved at the same time?

I offer two ideas: (1) Stage a mass Wedding Party Rally downtown in the Financial District at nighttime, hire a band or DJ, and distribute free wedding cake and cups of champagne to passers-by, inviting them to sit out in the sun and enjoy the free food and entertainment while we pass out flyers and educate them about everybody's right to celebrate and enjoy the freedom to love in any way that they choose; (2) Encourage people to get dressed up in their Halloween costumes and take part in a Trick-or-Treat Campaign and go door-to-door handing out treats to people and warning them about the nasty trick that Knight and his conservative cronies want to play on them next March and restrict their choice and freedom to love and marry.

I offer this open letter to the community as both a counterbalance to the *B.A.R.*'s coverage and an invitation to dialogue with others who can offer their concrete suggestions for how to achieve a renewed commitment to community engagement and political activism. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

GLAAD overboard!

GLAAD's Media Watch column that ran March 18 under Jerry Weinstein's byline ("Roundup of Billy Jack Gaither coverage") leaves a lot to be desired in journalistic terms. I had come to expect more objectivity from GLAAD, and was badly disappointed in three sub-items. Further, an immature "whiny underdog" tone runs throughout the column. In my view this is a useless tactic that erodes GLAAD's credibility and hurts our fight. While I am no friend to the still-largely homophobic mainstream media, I feel that some organs thereof may have been unfairly and unintelligently maligned in this column, simply for not going as overboard as GLAAD might have preferred:

1. Weinstein states that *Newsweek* "reported" that Gaither's killers planned the murder because of a sexual overture, and then says it was "irresponsible not to assert within the article" that such a pass did not justify homicide. Reporting and opinion pieces are different animals and always have been. If the *Newsweek* item was not labeled "commentary," then it would have been irresponsible for it to "assert" almost any opinion about the killers' excuse. (And if it was an opinion piece, then it was inaccurate for Weinstein to call it "reporting.")

2. Weinstein accuses the *New York Times* of "braying" the homosexual panic defense, yet his statements don't support this accusation. He quotes only the headline, "2 Confess to Killing Man, Saying He Made a Sexual Advance." Since we already know that the killers did say this, it is neither misreporting nor homophobia to point it out. Would Weinstein prefer that the killers' excuse never be mentioned? Or is it acceptable to mention it only if it's immediately rebuffed? As Weinstein himself points out throughout the rest of the item, the *Times* later editorialized in vigorous opposition to the panic defense and advocated the most progressive positions on hate-crimes legislation and coming out. Unless the *Times* ran an earlier piece in support of the killers' warped views, this was hardly the "180-degree turn" that Weinstein calls it, but rather just the usual delay between a breaking news story and a related opinion piece.

3. A one-sentence item asserts that the Associated Press "followed the tact [sic]" that Gaither deserved to die; but *not one word* is excerpted to support this.

GLAAD needs to understand one thing: While we are clearly a sympathetic audience, biased toward our own naturally pro-gay and anti-basher point of view, we still prefer to make up our own minds on most things, especially on serious accusations like this one. So don't patronize us by omitting the beef and then telling us what it tasted like. GLAAD may indeed be "watching" the media on our behalf, but that does not mean it should ask us to accept its analyses uncritically.

As furious as we are at this horrible murder and the trend it represents, we get nowhere if we portray ourselves as spoiled adolescents throwing tantrums at the powerful. I hope GLAAD will consider the impact that such bad journalism has on our fight for equality, and take steps to lift it to a more adult level. Sloppy rhetoric like Mr. Weinstein's could easily disenchant the remaining motivated few, and leave GLAAD's good works ignored by more people than otherwise. I worry about that. I think GLAAD should worry about it too.

Paul M. Gonzales
San Francisco

[Editor's note: To be fair, that was Weinstein's first GLAAD column. We think he's done brilliantly since.]

Civil ceremony or civil disobedience

I am challenging the constitutionality of the Defense of Marriage Act and other laws and practices directed against homosexuals. The case in the Northern District of Illinois is 96cr243. Appeals have been denied in the U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit, because the appeal was not filed on time. (no mailings were sent from the district court; this is documented under the district court.) The Supreme Court denied a writ of mandamus under number 98-913 without comment.

This case only got in to the federal courts because I used the tax system. It was the classic "when undermanned, let them come to you." On March 23, 1999, I was found guilty of violating probation because I asked the IRS if it was recognizing my partnership, since it had accepted a 1996 tax form as a joint filing with the word "married" crossed out.

Now the government is questioning my mental state, an argument many of us have heard before.

If you would like more information or you would like to participate in the process, please contact me at (630) 810-9708 or 311 Maple, Second Floor, Downers Grove, IL 60515.

Bob Mueller
Downers Grove, IL

Incentive, not exploitation

In response to Jim Lenartz's letter [March 11] criticizing your article on "Working Boys" [February 25] and, specifically, Marcel Miranda's photo exhibit, it is immediately apparent to this reader that Jim did not do his homework (i.e., bother reading the entire article) prior to writing his criticisms. I did read the entire article and must first correct Jim's delusion that a single photographer was responsible for the exhibit.

As the article clearly stated, 30 disposable cameras were given out to 30 youths purportedly working Polk Street with the instruction that they were to take pictures illustrative of their lifestyles. Ultimately, 50 of the photos were selected for an exhibit at the Stop AIDS Project at Polk and California. The "incentive" for the youths to bring in their pictures was that for every camera returned, the youth would receive a backpack containing condoms, lubricant, and other personal supplies. Various Polk Street merchants supplied the backpacks and their contents and the project was wildly successful.

On another level, it also made hustlers in the area aware of the Stop AIDS Project, a place where they could network for support as well as gaining invaluable information about safe sex and about how drug abuse, mostly methamphetamine use, often leads to unsafe sexual practices. I fail to see any exploitation here. I also went to see the photo exhibit at the Stop AIDS Project offices and was duly impressed. This was photojournalism at its finest, literally from the "horses mouth."

The article itself impressed me, too, as the first time in recent memory in which an article in the *B.A.R.* presented both hustlers and "johns" in a favorable light, as contributing members of the larger lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community, and the Stop AIDS Project is to be commended for its heartfelt efforts to heal the long-standing rift between the working boys (and their clients) and the merchants of Polk Street. I concur with Jim L. that many of the youths on Polk are runaways from abusive homes and that they lack job skills or sufficient education to obtain meaningful work. But, as a former male prostitute, I can state that hustlers can learn some very valuable skills in interpersonal relations and human psychology that will stand them in good stead later on in life. And, yes, drug use is epidemic among hustlers, just as it is among younger gays, lesbians, bis, and transnans. And there are photos in the exhibit that reflect this, rather brutally. But, it is only the Judeo-Christian morality/ethic that makes a negative judgment call on prostitution. Whores are as old as civilization itself and will, hopefully, be among us long after most of us are dead and buried.

As for Jim's letter, it behooves one to read (not skim) the entire article before holding forth one's opinions in a public forum. And it would behoove the rest of us to remember an earlier age when there were "sacred temple whores," revered for the work they did for God and country. Thanks.

John S. Connolly III
San Francisco

Offensive to Offenders

As producer of *Youthful Offenders* I want to thank John Karr for writing about our video [March 18]. I also want to say that both director Hank C. Wood and I agree with most of Mr. Karr's criticisms of Wood's videos. We both spoke to Karr about the frustrations of working in this field, where most videos are edited at Supercuts-styled editing houses. Mr. Karr knows our feelings and he knows that director Wood will no longer be making videos for the company that left the phone-ringing sound effect out of the movie.

Mr. Karr's savaging of the work of Hank C. Wood is surprising in light of the feedback I've gotten on my website, in my store, and from the public, making *Youthful Offenders* the second-highest-selling video in the nation, according to February's *Adult Video News*. Mr. Karr thinks the video was "edited in a mix-master." There are about three times as many cuts in *Youthful Offenders* as in an average gay video. We set out to do with action, movement, and pacing what consumers have requested, romantic storylines with a plot and the natural sounds of sex instead of music. Wood's intimate camera angles are the items that people comment on the most. The second is the reality of the jail atmosphere. Maybe Mr. Karr is too used to the old line junk that's out there.

Jerry Douglas, the most honored gay video director of this decade, believes *Youthful Offenders* will be a classic and has selected it as a picture of the month for *Manshots*. As the distributor, I'd make a wager with Mr. Karr that *Youthful Offenders* will still be selling at full price five years from now. I wonder how many of the videos John Karr raves about end up in the remainder bin six months later.

Jeff Satkin
Atkol Video
Plainfield, NJ

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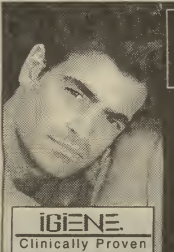


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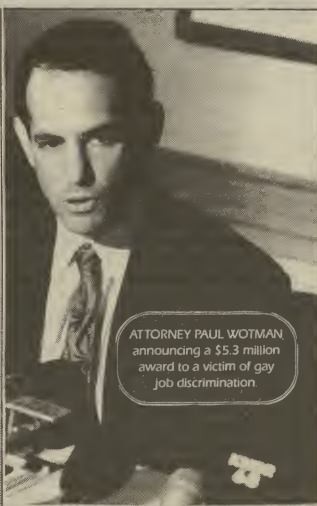
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What Phyl and Del said

We were disappointed that the B.A.R.'s coverage of "The Wedding" [April 1] concentrated more on the action outside than inside City Hall. It did not capture the mood—the love, commitment, joy, the sharing and acceptance experienced by the hundreds gathered at the reception and ceremony.

Unfortunately the sound projected only forward. Those on the steps behind us said they could not hear us. For the record, here is our statement:

We (Phyllis and Del) have known each other for almost 50 years. We made our private commitment to each other when we moved into a Castro Street apartment 46 years ago. Our relationship hasn't been a secret since the mid 1960s. Over the years we have been accepted as a couple here in San Francisco and elsewhere, yet legally we're strangers. If that isn't outrageous enough, we now face Initiative 819 entitled Defense of Marriage, on the California primary ballot March 7, 2000, which adds a provision to the Family Code providing that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

All of us participating in this ceremony tonight are declaring publicly that as citizens we are entitled to equal protection under the law as provided by the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. We summarily reject second class citizenship status.

We are grateful to city officials, clergy, and congregations who are conducting same-sex unions despite the consequences. We can do no less. We need more of us to come out to defeat this measure as we did the Briggs initiative 20 years ago. We learned then that for the most part, those who support us have known some of us personally. Those who so adamantly oppose us, to their knowledge, have never met any of us. They condemn us out of ignorance and fear. What they fear they attack.

We have a year to spread our message of family values that not only include love and commitment to each other, but also tolerance and respect for others who may be different from, or differ with, us. The doctrine that guides us blesses life, liberty, and love. As an army of lovers we cannot fail.

Del Martin and Phyllis Lyon
San Francisco

Please don't bite the bottom

The B.A.R.'s front-page story on the mayor and board of supes marrying 190 gay couples at City Hall reported how, during the ceremony, "The beautiful layered cake in the colors of the rainbow flag suddenly collapsed onto the table, as Supervisor Michael Yaki and staffers raced to save the multi-layered creation."

Oops! I'd only meant to scoop a little icing from the corner. To be fair, I was only halfway through the bottom layer when the cake suddenly burst into tiers.

Strange de Jim
San Francisco

Mockingbird for breakfast

I'm writing regarding Gary Morris's [March 25] analysis of *Passage l'Acte*, in which filmmaker Martin Arnold uses a scene from *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Although I haven't seen Arnold's film, I have seen *To Kill a Mockingbird* and felt that several details of context and setting mentioned by Mr. Morris might be clarified. While Morris asserts that "the 1950s family is the target here" it should be noted that *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set at the height of the Depression. Also, if the scene in question is the same one as illustrated by the review's accompanying photograph of Mary Badham then the setting is breakfast, not dinner. The "mother" Morris describes is a friend and neighbor. While Arnold may have intended this character to symbolically represent a "mother," the fact remains that Gregory Peck's character is a widower. The children's mother, his wife, is long dead.

Finally (unless dialogue was re-dubbed by Arnold) at no point does Gregory Peck scream "Jam!" This isn't *To Kill a Marmalade*. What he says is "Jem," which is his son's name, the boy in the scene.

Michael Caselli
San Francisco

Jaundice view

In his timely B.A.R. article on the three major forms of hepatitis April 1, Phillip Alden helped dispel some confusion surrounding hepatitis A, B, and C. It is important to know that to be immune to one form does not mean immunity to the others, and that prevention exists for A and B. We think Mr. Alden is right when he said "talking with your doctor about getting vaccinated for HAV and HBV is a good starting point." We would like to add that men who have sex with men have the highest incidence of these two forms of the disease. We also believe others need to pitch in: health organizations, healthcare providers, and state and local governments should promote and provide universal A and B vaccinations to those at the greatest risk.

Maureen S. O'Leary
Gay and Lesbian Medical Association

Spitting at Jesus again

A few thoughts in the way of discourse:

The Catholic Church is not a social service institution. It is the mystic body of Christ. It is our fervent faith that the church is Jesus Christ. Its mission is to help quench His thirsting love for souls. Our most imperishable possession.

We read so many adjectives and invectives against the Catholic Church in your press and others. But, what is the Catholic Church anyway? It is but you and I. We carry it in our heart. It has little to do with hierarchy or ecclesiastical rulers at Rome or here. We are all in this collectively. It's as simple as that. It's so easy to target culpability on those that are highly visible.

I've always felt that street demonstrations were just a form of recreational therapy for the bored. But these recent ostentatious demonstrations in front of sacred places indicate something far more sombre [sic] and ugly. I don't wish to seem a professional creep-hanger [sic] but: you're mocking and spitting in the sacred face of Jesus once again. How sacrilegious and indifferent! That is indeed a real screamer. Just think of it. Jesus, True God and True Man.

Our faith demands of Catholics a strong and courageous individuality. What a pity it is that some of you don't have that same grit and virility.

Perhaps it's a consciousness of an irremediably blemished self and a desire to escape that self, that produces a willingness to dissolve that self in such superfluous and sacrilegious displays.

I would urge you to somehow find your way home again and reunite with your true individual identity. Then you'll have the capacity to love and be loved. Maybe find some quiet exultation as well.

Yours in Jesus and Mary,

Father Michael Eady
Our Lady of Lourdes
San Francisco

[We agree with your statement that your church is not a social service institution. It could be, and it should be, but what it is right now is a tax-exempt political lobby. It is easy for you to fall back on divine blamelessness, but we wonder: was the church "the mystic body of Jesus" when it put the innocent to death in the Inquisition? When it sent children to the Crusades? Is it "spitting in the sacred face of Jesus" to complain about papal complicity in the Nazi Holocaust? We don't think so, and we don't think our demonstrations are for you to judge as "therapy for the bored." Such an attitude shows that you are not fit to minister to people who are genuinely desperate, terrified, frustrated, and in mourning. You could learn much about grit and virility (!), the capacity to love, and strong and courageous individuality from this community. But not until you pull our head out of your cassock.]

[The following two letters were sent to Supervisor Alicia Becerril.]

Back to school

I attended the March 29 Board of Supervisors meeting on Sixth Street. I was appalled at your misinterpretation of the issues at stake regarding the proposed amendment to the street closure permit for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's anniversary party. Although I disagreed with your vote, I would have tried to understand it, had you supported it with and logic. Your nasty and ridiculous attack on Supervisor Tom Amiano made me embarrassed to be a human being.

You are obviously in over your head. I suggest you resign and take some remedial civics courses, with emphasis on the principle of separation of church and state, and the First Amendment.

Charm school wouldn't hurt either.

Robert Stine (formerly Sister Lida Dogslife)
San Francisco

And a child shall lead you...

I am writing to express my extreme disappointment toward you and your actions at the March 29 Board of Supervisors meeting. Your remarks were out of line and have no place in City Hall or at any city meeting. It is customary that the finger-pointing and mud-throwing happen while campaigning, not while conducting regular business. As an appointed member to the San Francisco Youth Commission, I question why you felt it necessary to verbally attack a colleague at a public meeting to get your point across.

I can assure you that members of the Youth Commission conduct themselves with more tact. I appreciate your convictions on this issue, however your argument was extremely misguided. I hope that in the future you pick your battles more carefully and set personal grudges aside when you are representing the voters of San Francisco.

In closing, I hope that you use more tact before alienating the voters and making San Francisco politics look like a mockery.

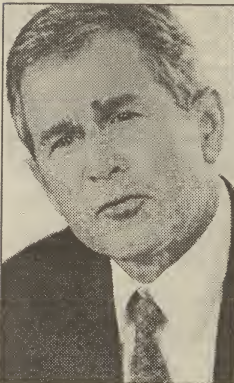
Dennis R. Isner
Member, San Francisco Youth Commission
and candidate for supervisor

POLITICS

Bush whacking

by Wayne Friday

As the *New York Times* put it recently, "Ask **George W. Bush** about the prickliest issues of the day, and his carefully wrapped responses are those of the ultimate Rorschach politician: voters can see what they want to see." Gay political activists in Texas – Republican and Democrat alike – fare no better when they try to ascertain the 2000 Republican presidential frontrunner's positions on gay rights issues.



George W. Bush

In comments that *should* please gay rights advocates, Bush, now serving his second term as the Lone Star state's governor, recently said that no one should be automatically disqualified from an ambassadorship or other presidential appointment merely because he or she is a homosexual.

Bush gave a general statement that a gay or lesbian probably should be given the job "as long as they can do the job – and as long as their political agenda was the same as mine" (*why does the part about his "political agenda" seem to bother me?*), but avoided the issue of San Franciscan **James Hormel** (whom the Republicans in the U.S. Senate have blocked as President **Bill Clinton's** ambassador to Luxembourg because he is openly gay) by claiming "I don't know the background" of the Hormel nomination attempt.

However, he promptly followed that up by taking his now-familiar play-to-both-sides stance, saying that homosexuals should not be foster parents, and that there should not be a specific reference to homosexuals in hate crime legislation. On opposing gays adopting children or becoming foster parents, Bush says, "I strongly believe that what's best for children is a married man or a married woman as their parents; that has nothing to do, however, with whether or not I respect somebody."

Gay political activists in both Austin and Houston claim that, compared to his father, former President **George Bush**, their governor is certainly much more conservative (he likes to refer to himself as a "compassionate conservative"); by no stretch of the imagination do these gay and lesbian activists feel that he is the least bit sympathetic to the rights of gays. One Houston gay activist who has closely watched the younger Bush since he first became a candidate for Texas governor six years ago told me that "Junior is dangerous – he's good at covering up his true beliefs and is hard to pin down; he may not be homophobic, but, clearly, he is no

friend of the gay community."

The same source pointed out that Bush recently met with the Reverend **Pat Robertson**, the anti-gay founder of the Christian Coalition, a man that Bush's closest campaign people say is an "advisor" to the campaign. When asked about Robertson's role in his upcoming presidential campaign, Bush said that he has indeed had some "very frank discussions" with the homophobic Robertson as part of his effort to woo all factions of the Republican Party, adding that "I want everyone to support me." Bush said he talked to Robertson about "my heart, what my beliefs are."

When asked about other controversial issues, Bush, as with gay rights, tries to have it both ways, taking a play-to-both-sides position on abortion: he describes himself as "pro life" but tries to appease those less adamantly opposed to abortion by saying the country is not ready to embrace a constitutional amendment banning all abortions. Bush further refuses to say whether he would insist on an abortion foe as a running mate; by taking this position he can stave off defections from abortion opponents while still leaving the impression among abortion rights advocates that he might pick one of their own as his vice presidential running mate.

On another issue, Bush opposes racial quotas, but supports other efforts to open doors for minorities (he calls this approach "affirmative access"). On the controversial issue of school prayer, he says he is all for it, but is careful to say that the choice should be left to the students. "Why do I think prayer [in school] is important?" he asked. "I believe there's an almighty loving God, and I think if students so choose to do so, it's an important principle."

What do I think about the GOP presidential frontrunner? I believe that he has probably already had too many meetings with Robertson. One has to wonder whether or not the *real* George W. Bush will eventually stand up.

Politics and people

You read it here first (and you didn't even have to get to the Arts & Entertainment section): a special June 7 performance of Steve Silver's *Beach Blanket Babylon*, marking its 25th anniversary, will feature cameos by Senator **Dianne Feinstein** as **Snow White** (now, *that's* casting); former Secretary State **George Shultz** as **Superman**; his wife, S.F. protocol chief **Charlotte Shultz**, as **Wonder Woman**; and Mayor **Willie Brown** as (who else?) **himself**. Socialite **Ann Getty**, author **Danielle Steele**, and actor **Don Johnson** are also expected take turns on the *Babylon* stage; this will be a benefit fundraiser and tix will go fast – run, don't walk, to get yours.

Speaking of **Snow White**, there was a big turnout of gay and lesbian supporters at Feinstein's home April 6 in support of her 2000 re-election campaign – and plenty of talk about a possible Dianne for Veep candidacy on an **Al Gore** ticket as well.

On a related note, President Clinton is in town today (Thursday) to address the American Society of Newspaper Editors (and

to give that lagging Gore candidacy a lift).

Battle of the Primaries: New Hampshire, which zealously guards its first-in-the-nation presidential primary, might hold it earlier than ever, possibly as early as this November. New Hampshire state law requires that its primary must be held at least seven days before any other state's primary, and faced with other states moving to earlier dates, New Hampshire is seriously thinking of moving its to the end of 1999.

Speaking of the New Hampshire presidential primary, Log Cabin Republicans, the predominantly gay and lesbian organization, will ask all GOP presidential candidates to sign a pledge to fight racial and sexual intolerance. "They are not going

to get a pass on this; they are going to have to enforce tolerance or they are bigots," says **Kevin Ivers** of the Log Cabin group. This is the first major political drive by Log Cabin Republicans to become a political force akin to Democratic gay groups, and I can hardly wait for the response of the likes of **Pat Buchanan**, **Gary Bauer**, Senator **Bob Smith**, and **Dan Quayle**.

Here in California, Governor **Gray Davis** said last week that he would sign a bill providing an alternative to the state's open presidential primary.

Incidentally, Tuesday marked the governor's 100th day in office (after 16 years of GOP governors) and Davis still has a very high performance rating with California voters; meanwhile, a Field Poll released this week also shows that voters mostly approve of the job of their state legislators as well: 49 percent of Californians approved of what legislators were doing, while 23 percent disapproved, and 28 percent had no opinion.

Anti-gay state Senator **Pete Knight** (R-Palmdale) is getting his initiative to ban gay marriages in California organized; the initiative statue is called "Definition of Marriage"; **Rob Stutzman**, a publicity flack in the office of former Attorney General **Dan Lungren**, is the daily campaign manager of the anti-gay measure, and the legal end of the campaign to ban gay marriages is being handled by the San Francisco-based Bagatelos & Fadem.

Betty DeGeneres (the mother of actress Ellen DeGeneres, the first non-gay spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, and the author of the new book *Love, Ellen – A Mother/Daughter Journey*) was spotted having dinner last week with three of Ellen's friends at Tin Pan restaurant on Upper Market Street.

Up north, Marin Supre **Hal Brown** is picking up important early support for a likely run for Assemblywoman **Kerry Mazzoni's** 6th District seat next year; Mazzoni, a popular Democrat, will be termed out.

Also in Marin, longtime Superior Court Judge **William Stephens** will retire in a couple of months, setting off a furious scuttle for a judicial appointment by Davis – the first by a Democrat in that county in many a year.

Finally, a reader called to warn me that rookie Supervisor **Alicia Becerra** "is more than a little pissant" at last week's column. So?

And how was your week? ▼



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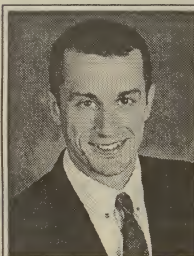
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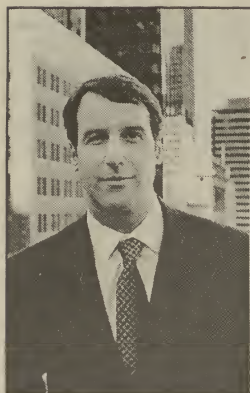
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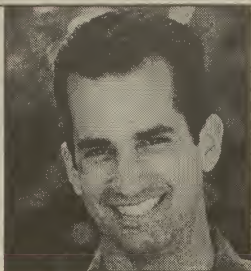


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Credit where credit's due

by Nancy Boutilier

It was the best of plays. It was the worst of plays.

Okay, I adapted that line from a Dickens novel, if you must know, but I'll spare you the full footnote.

Someone (was it Oscar Wilde, and do I really have to look it up?) said that imitation is the highest form of flattery. That being said, I understand why writer Sarah Schulman isn't feeling flattered these days.

I've seen the best and worst of plays — *Rent*, that is — twice now. Once in London and again last week at the Golden Gate Theatre.

The first time I saw it I had low expectations — it was Broadway hit, after all. So was *Starlight Express*. But *Rent* took me by surprise. I was moved by the struggles, enjoyed the humor, wept for the pain, delighted in La Vie Bohème, let sentimentality wash through me as the cast asked "how do you measure the life of a woman or a man?"

I chastised myself for being so picky, as I was rather annoyed that the lesbian relationship was so clearly trivialized — characterized by jealousy and self-centered bickering. In contrast, the gay men and the straight couple wrestled with AIDS, addiction, and poverty.

I even bought the cast album. I haven't listened to show tunes since Donna Fancy and I performed *Jesus Christ Superstar* and *Hair* over and over in my basement on Saturday mornings. (I could never hit the high notes of "I Don't Know How to Love Him," but something in that song still resonates.)

More than anything, *Rent* reminds me of *Hair*. Both sport songs that teach kids a whole new vocabulary of sexual possibility. From *Hair* I remember "Masturbation can be fun, join the Holy Orgy, Kama Sutra everyone," whereas *Rent* offers a toast "To sodomy, it's between God and Me. To S&M."

So, for the record, score one for the late Jonathan Larson, who claims to have written the book, the music, and the lyrics.

The score evened up quickly, however, when I heard rumor that the musical had plagiarized Sarah Schulman's novel *People In Trouble*. I had read the novel years ago and did not make an immediate connection, so I dug it out of my bookshelf and took another look.

Just the "coincidences" of circumstance and character give Schulman a decent case. Then I discovered Schulman's latest book, *Stagestruck: Theater, AIDS and the Marketing of Gay America*.

Now I don't want to speak ill of the dead, and, as I said, Larson's play moved me, but it also angers me that the mainstream elements of the play that annoyed me were actually strategic revisions that neutralized the punch of Schulman's original work — work that cannot find the same commercial or financial success as *Rent* precisely because she writes from a lesbian perspective and *Rent* reframes her story around a straight male perspective.

I won't rewrite Schulman's case here, it's a compelling one and the book is about more than her effort to have Larson's estate follow the most basic of high school writing rules: give credit where credit is due. Schulman, an insightful cultural



critic, explores *Rent*'s success within the larger context of the theater world. She also examines the musical's connection to public perceptions of homosexuality and HIV/AIDS, as well as the relationship of real art to that other medium, entertainment.

Stagestruck is a disturbing and important book that anyone who pays to see *Rent* ought to buy and read, if for no other reason than to pay Schulman the debt the play owes to her — though I don't believe financial gain was really ever her motive. Schulman is, understandably,

outraged that a novel that challenges the social order has been used as the foundation of a play that actually maintains that same social order and, more to the point, glosses over the lesbian existence that she so carefully constructed in her novel.

So, why it was the best of plays?

Well, I'm still singing the lyrics. More importantly, so are my high school students. I suspect that much of what Schulman writes about the feel-goodness of we are all colors, sexual stripes, and sizes (except fat) of *Rent* could have been written about *Hair* in its day. Nevertheless, I found a freedom in the alternative it suggested as I was learning the lyrics. I imagined that somewhere over the rainbow there was a counter-culture for me.

When, after seeing *Rent* once, I observed to one of my high school students that it annoyed me how the lesbian couple was so petty, she swooned a major "No!" at me. In her mind the lesbian couple had the best love song. "Wasn't their duet the best?" She started to sing "Take me as I am..." I was stopped in my tracks by how fully she identified with that song and the couple.

I paid close attention to that number when I saw the show for a second time. It dawned on me then that kids across America are seeing something they haven't seen before — for all the bickering that couple does, for however unrealistic and stripped of the real issues that an interracial lesbian couple might face, Joanne and Maureen are a lesbian couple that kids care about.

They can see them as, perhaps, they see themselves — as both misfits and universals in our right-leaning mainstream. Although I entirely agree with Schulman that the politics have been whitewashed to make the play mass marketable, I think it's better than nothing.

Maybe this is not a tale of two

plays, but a tale of two me-s. On one hand, I'm the kid who sang *Hair* and who believed in that little hippie counter-culture that resisted the dominant system, even if they couldn't entirely escape its effects. On the other hand, I am frustrated by how slowly progress is made, how resistant our bigoted culture is to change. Schulman has clearly been a pioneer whose voice is being lost to mainstream America, stripped of its edge and obscured by Larson's play.

Schulman's novel did not reach the audience *Rent* is reaching, though it definitely had a more subversive message. Homophobia held it back then, and, if she wrote it today, still would. If *Rent* gets us closer to a world in which novels by lesbians revolving around the lives of lesbian characters find commercial success, then something good will come of this messiness — and I do find it messy. Larson, a straight white man who died of an aortic aneurysm the very day *Rent* was to premiere, is not around to challenge Schulman's charge, to own up to such use of her work and/or express gratitude, to apologize, to hear the applause.

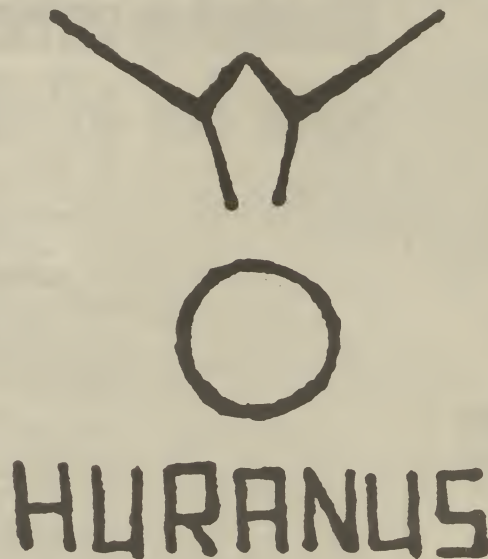
Questions remain about how we in the queer community support our artists.

The same week I attended a sold-out *Rent*, I saw a staged reading of Emma Donoghue's *Ladies and Gentlemen* as part of the Irish women playwrights festival at the Magic Theater. I loved it. Donoghue is the leading lesbian writer of Ireland that may get me in trouble, as I'm sure there are others, but she's the only exported novelist I know of. Her play takes place at the turn of the century in backstage vaudeville, centering around the touching love affair of a male impersonator named Annie Hindle (Jessie Gray) and her Irish lover, Ryanny (Mollie Stickney). The show did not play to a full house, there were no teenagers there at a Saturday matinee, and Donoghue's participation in the festival got little media play that I could see.

Following the San Francisco production of *Rent* I said to a teen who had seen the show, "They have nerve casting the great gay-friendly, neo-bohemian, celebrate-diversity show in this city without having a single short-haired woman on stage!" It's true, not a dyke dyke in the cast.

The young woman looked at me, then at my buzz cut, and nodded sympathetically.

"I'll grant you that," she said. Then she started humming "The Tango Maureen." ▼



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PLATFORM AND AGENDA

Taxes

I support a flat tax of 25% on all income, individual and corporate, over one hundred thousand dollars. All deductions should be eliminated.

Wages

I support a minimum wage of 15 dollars an hour. This would double corporate profits and help eliminate unemployment, poverty, and hunger. With an economy as large and as wealthy as ours this is more than affordable. I support a minimum wage /income of thirty thousand dollars a year.

Work Week

I support a 30 hour work week, five six hour days. This would eliminate unemployment, poverty, and hunger. We should have 30 hours work for 40 hours pay.

African Americans

I support reconciliation with African Americans. I would give an acre, or a parcel of land, to every African American 18 years and older, who can prove one of their parents was born in the United States. This land would be located in the South, and would come out of public and probate government property. Southern industrialists benefited most from African slavery, so the South should pay.

The Military

I support reducing the military budget from 250 billion dollars a year back to 80 billion dollars a year. I would close all our military bases abroad in Europe and Asia, and leave Guantanamo, Cuba.

Wall Street

The corporate bureaucracy is too expensive. I would limit total compensation for executive officers of companies to no more than 2 million dollars a year. They are ripping off the stock holders and cutting corporate profits.

Education

I support free college education.

Medicine

I support 3 billion dollars a year for AIDS research, and 3 billion dollars a year for research into breast cancer in women. All employers should be required to provide 100% health insurance coverage.

Gay Rights

I support same sex marriages.

Benefits

Welfare and S.S.I. should pay one thousand dollars a month. S.S.D. payments should be doubled up to a maximum of two thousand dollars a month. Cost of living adjustments should be added on top of this. This will be a boost to business and the economy, and cut crime.

I am Anthony De Palma the independent, underground, write-in candidate for president in 2000. Please mail all contributions to:

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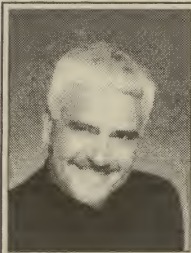
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Making schools safe for all students

by Jerry Weinstein,
GLAAD publications
manager

An op-ed piece in the *Spokane Statesman-Review* and a cover story in *Teacher Magazine* examine harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) students in the California and Washington school systems.

Jamie Tobias Neely, writing for the editorial board of the *Statesman-Review* of Spokane, Washington, describes the findings of a new report from the Safe Schools Coalition of Washington, which found at least 111 incidents of harassment due to sexual orientation, all in the last five years. Fortunately, Spokane's District 81 and the neighboring Cheney school district have policies that explicitly ban harassment related to sexual orientation. Enforcement includes counseling, suspension, or expulsion. The *Statesman-Review* calls for all schools to enact this policy and recognizes "a cultural link between harassment in the public schools and the ongoing discrimination felt by gay and lesbian adults in the Inland Northwest. That link points out the need for Spokane's new human rights ordinance, which prohibits discrimination in housing, employment and public transportation."

David Ruenzel's piece in *Teacher Magazine* examines the momentum behind a federal civil rights lawsuit recently filed by Live Oak High School students in Morgan Hill, California. The piece sensitively interviews the six plaintiffs, allowing them to elaborate on the charges that they experienced "pervasive, severe, and unwelcome" verbal and physical anti-gay harassment on a nearly daily basis. Of the six students, only Alana Flores, 19, chooses to reveal her identity. During her time at Live Oak, Flores had initially convinced herself that the abuse endured was part of the "normal" high school experience. Matters escalated when fellow students placed death threats in her locker, and taunted her openly during class. Most of the teachers who were witness to her harassment remained silent; others, according to Flores, were "afraid to do anything that shows tolerance."

The complaint, filed in a U.S. District Court, names as defendants Morgan Hill superintendent Carolyn McKennan and a roster of administrators; a jury trial is slated for September. The piece concludes with a cogent analysis of why discrimination continues in the schools, and how the anti-gay rhetoric of public figures such as Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott influences whether or not students treat one another with respect. While Wisconsin student Jamie Nabozny recently won a summary judgment of nearly \$1 million, demonstrating that the courts recognize accountability, schools remain unsafe and teachers must continue to fight for protections in the face of indifference.

Please thank the *Spokane Statesman-Review* and *Teacher*

Magazine for these comprehensive pieces.

Contact John Webster, Editorial Page Editor, *Spokane Statesman-Review*, 999 W. Riverside Ave., Spokane, WA 99201-1098, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.spokane.net>; and Drew Lindsay, Managing Editor, *Teacher Magazine*, 6935 Arlington Road, Suite 100, Bethesda, MD 20814, e-mail: tmletter@epe.org

Los Angeles billboard promotes homophobia

This week, community members in Los Angeles were perplexed by the sight of billboards that read, "Do You Know If Your Son's Coach is Gay?" They were uncertain whether this was a piece of religious extremist propaganda or an ironic campaign from a coalition of Southern California gay bars.

GLAAD Entertainment Media Director Scott Seomin learned that it was neither, but rather a local advertising campaign conceived by Los Angeles talk-radio station KFI-AM, and implemented by the billboard company, Outdoor Systems. GLAAD met with both Outdoor Systems and the radio station, as well as local area merchants who lease the space to Outdoor Systems, educating each on the implications of such a campaign.

Considering that the other billboards read, "Do You Trust Your Babysitter?" and "Who is Reading Your E-mail?" this particular billboard campaign was obviously designed to exploit people's fears. The billboard in question employed stereotypes, reinforcing fears that might be manifested by violence towards gay men.

"Even after discussions with GLAAD, KFI-AM failed to consider that its listeners might be offended by the campaign, and refused to remove the billboards," said Seomin. "Outdoor Systems thought differently. After receiving concerned phone calls from area merchants, they registered GLAAD's complaint that the ban-

ners were dangerous, ultimately complying with our request to take down the offending matter."

Please write KFI-AM and let them know that provocative advertising campaigns need not be offensive. In addition, please commend Outdoor Systems for accepting responsibility as an exhibitor.

Contact Stewart Turner, Marketing Director at KFI-AM, 610 South Ardmore Avenue, LA, 90005; and Dennis Kuhl and Carol Lewis, account executive, at Outdoor Systems, 1731 Workman Street, LA 90031

Washington Post columnist calls for Hormel's appointment

In an April 6, 1999 column for the *Washington Post* Geneva Overholser questions where Americans stand with regard to full acceptance of homosexuality. While she acknowledges the work of sociologist Alan Wolfe, whose concept of "homosexual exception" speaks to misconceptions Americans continue to have regarding the practices of sexual minorities, Overholser asserts that a clear majority of Americans do support equal access to employment, housing, and job protection for all. She then follows this observation with an endorsement of openly gay James Hormel as ambassador to Luxembourg. (Hormel was first nominated in 1997; the nomination was scuttled in 1998 and resubmitted in January, 1999.)

Overholser advocates for Hormel saying, "[Trent] Lott should listen to the people on this one. Even for a gay man, when it comes to job applications, live and let live is the rule."

Please thank the *Washington Post* for publishing this articulate editorial.

Contact Meg Greenfield, Editor, Editorial Page, *Washington Post*, 1150 15th Street NW, Washington, DC 20071-0002, e-mail via WWW: <http://www.washingtonpost.com>

Report defamation in the media by calling GLAAD's toll-free AlertLine! 1-800-GAY-MEDIA (1-800-429-6334).

GLAAD's SF monitoring team seeks volunteers

by Cynthia Laird

GLAAD, the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, wants interested community members to volunteer for its San Francisco "Monitor and Response Team," which meets the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month.

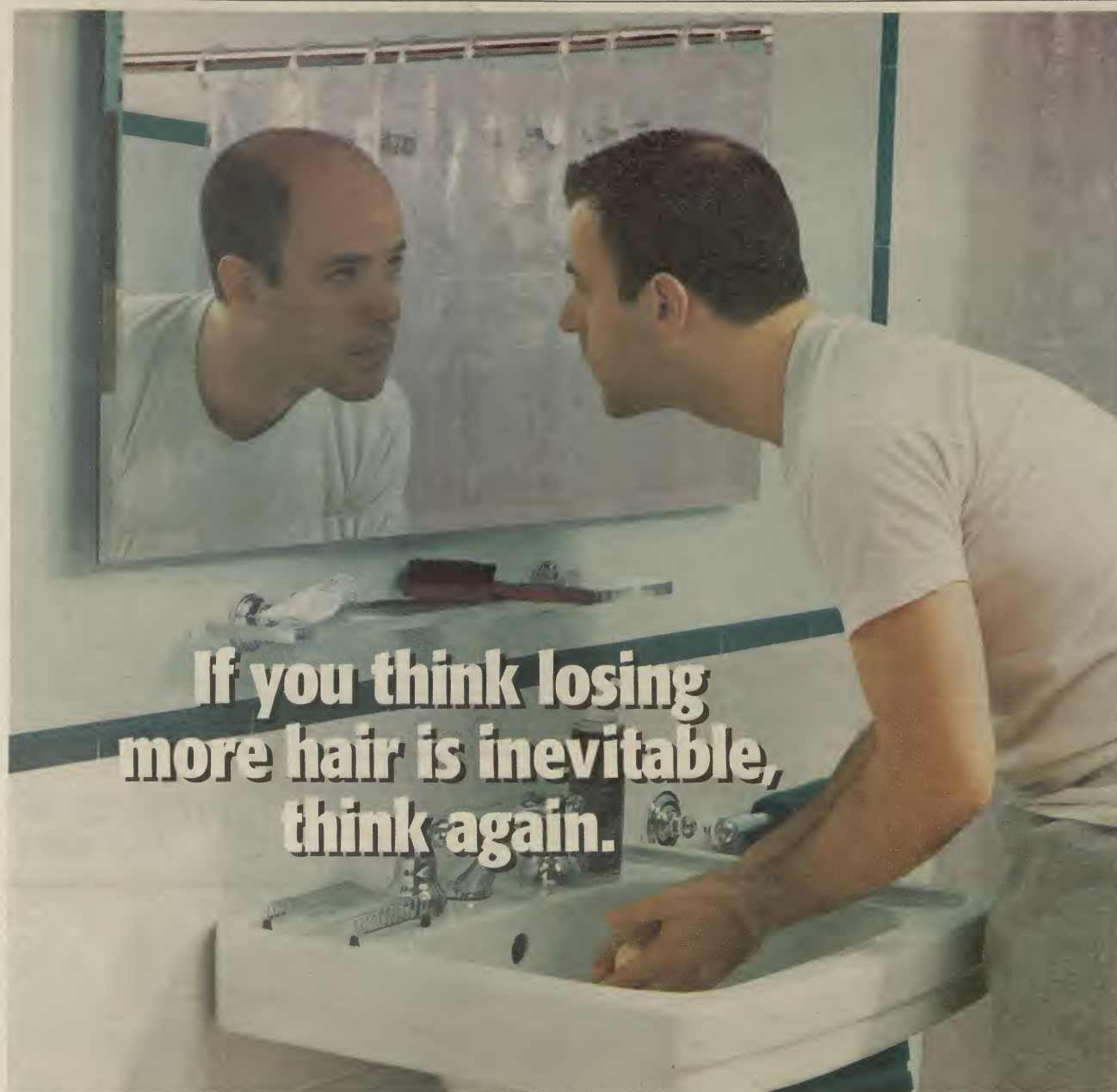
Bay Area residents who are concerned about representations of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community in film, television, print, radio, the Internet, and other forms of media are welcome to join the team, said Loren Javier, GLAAD's interactive media director in San Francisco. GLAAD staff members noted that the increasing number of films, articles, programs, and

software affecting the LGBT community means people across the country are needed to help aggressively and effectively monitor the media.

Locally, GLAAD's San Francisco monitor and response team concentrates primarily on monitoring interactive and computer-based media, such as online news sources, and on news media in the northwestern region of the country.

The San Francisco meetings start at 7 p.m. at the GLAAD Media Resource Center, located at 1360 Mission Street, Suite 200, one block south of Market between 9th and 10th streets. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 27. ▼

For more information, call Loren Javier at (415) 861-2244.



The first and only pill clinically proven to treat hair loss in men.

PROPECIA is a medical breakthrough – the first pill that effectively treats male pattern hair loss on the vertex (at top of head) and anterior mid-scalp area.

By all measures, the clinical results of PROPECIA in men are impressive:*

- 83% maintained their hair based on hair count (vs. 28% with placebo).
- 66% had visible regrowth as rated by independent dermatologists (vs. 7% with placebo).
- 80% were rated as improved by clinical doctors (vs. 47% with placebo).
- Most men reported an increase in the amount of hair, a decrease in hair loss, and improvement in appearance.

*Based on vertex studies at 24 months of men 18 to 41 with mild to moderate hair loss.

Scientists have recently discovered that men with male pattern hair loss have an increased level of DHT in their scalps. PROPECIA blocks the formation of DHT and, in this way, appears to interrupt a key factor in the development of inherited male pattern hair loss in men. Importantly, PROPECIA helps grow natural hair – not just peach fuzz – and is as convenient to take as a vitamin: one pill a day.

Only a doctor can determine if PROPECIA is right for you. PROPECIA is for **men only**. Further, women who are or may potentially be pregnant must not use PROPECIA and should not handle crushed or broken tablets because of the risk of a specific kind of birth defect. (See accompanying Patient Information for details.) PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more to see visible results. PROPECIA may not regrow all your hair. And if you stop using this product, you will gradually lose the hair you have gained. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works for recession at the temporal areas. If you haven't seen results after 12 months of using PROPECIA, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit.

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. A very small number of men experienced certain side effects, such as: less desire for sex, difficulty in achieving an erection, and a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects were reversible and went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men (58%) who continued taking PROPECIA.

So start talking to your doctor. And stop thinking further hair loss is inevitable.

CALL 1-888-806-3725 or visit our website at www.propecia.com today to receive detailed product information, including clinical "before and after" photographs.

Please read the next page for additional information about PROPECIA.

Propecia™
(finasteride)

Helping make hair loss history™

Propecia™

(Finasteride) Tablets

Patient Information about PROPECIA®
(Pro-pee-sha)
Generic name: finasteride (fin-AS-tur-eyed)

PROPECIA™ is for use by MEN ONLY.

Please read this leaflet before you start taking PROPECIA. Also, read the information included with PROPECIA each time you renew your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this leaflet does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss PROPECIA when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups.

What is PROPECIA used for?

PROPECIA is used for the treatment of male pattern hair loss on the vertex and the anterior mid-scalp area. PROPECIA is for use by **MEN ONLY** and should **NOT** be used by women or children.

What is male pattern hair loss?

Male pattern hair loss is a common condition in which men experience thinning of the hair on the scalp. Often, this results in a receding hairline and/or balding on the top of the head. These changes typically begin gradually in men in their 20s.

Doctors believe male pattern hair loss is due to heredity and is dependent on hormonal effects. Doctors refer to this type of hair loss as androgenetic alopecia.

Results of clinical studies:

For 12 months, doctors studied over 1800 men aged 18 to 41 with mild to moderate amounts of ongoing hair loss. A 11 men, whether receiving PROPECIA or placebo (a pill containing no medication) were given a medicated shampoo (Neutrogena T/Gel*** Shampoo). Of these men, approximately 1200 with hair loss at the top of the head were studied for an additional 12 months. In general, men who took PROPECIA maintained or increased the number of visible scalp hairs and noticed improvement in their hair in the first year, with the effect maintained in the second year. Hair counts in men who did not take PROPECIA continued to decrease.

In one study, patients were questioned on the growth of body hair. PROPECIA did not appear to affect hair in places other than the scalp.

Will PROPECIA work for me?

For most men, PROPECIA increases the number of scalp hairs, helping to fill in thin or balding areas of the scalp. Men taking PROPECIA noted a slowing of hair loss during two years of use. Although results will vary, generally you will not be able to grow back all of the hair you have lost. There is not sufficient evidence that PROPECIA works in the treatment of receding hairline in the temporal area on both sides of the head.

Male pattern hair loss occurs gradually over time. On average, healthy hair grows only about half an inch each month. Therefore, it will take time to see any effect.

You may need to take PROPECIA daily for three months or more before you see a benefit from taking PROPECIA. PROPECIA can only work over the long term if you continue taking it. If the drug has not worked for you in twelve months, further treatment is unlikely to be of benefit. If you stop taking PROPECIA, you will likely lose the hair you have gained within 12 months of stopping treatment. You should discuss this with your doctor.

How should I take PROPECIA?

Follow your doctor's instructions.

- Take one tablet by mouth each day.
- You may take PROPECIA with or without food.
- If you forget to take PROPECIA, do not take an extra tablet. Just take the next tablet as usual.

PROPECIA will not work faster or better if you take it more than once a day.

Who should NOT take PROPECIA?

- PROPECIA is for the treatment of male pattern hair loss in **MEN ONLY** and should not be taken by women or children.
- Anyone allergic to any of the ingredients.

A warning about PROPECIA and pregnancy.

- **Women who are or may potentially be pregnant:**
 - must not use PROPECIA
 - should not handle crushed or broken tablets of PROPECIA.

If a woman who is pregnant with a male baby absorbs the active ingredient in PROPECIA, either by swallowing or through the skin, it may cause abnormalities of a male baby's sex organs. If a woman who is pregnant comes into contact with the active ingredient in PROPECIA, a doctor should be consulted. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

What are the possible side effects of PROPECIA?

Like all prescription products, PROPECIA may cause side effects. In clinical studies, side effects from PROPECIA were uncommon and did not affect most men. A small number of men experienced certain sexual side effects. These men reported one or more of the following: less desire for sex; difficulty in achieving an erection; and, a decrease in the amount of semen. Each of these side effects occurred in less than 2% of men. These side effects went away in men who stopped taking PROPECIA. They also disappeared in most men who continued taking PROPECIA.

The active ingredient in PROPECIA is also used by older men at a five-times higher dose to treat enlargement of the prostate. Some of these men reported other side effects, including problems with ejaculation, breast swelling and/or tenderness and allergic reactions such as lip swelling and rash. In clinical studies with PROPECIA, these side effects occurred as often in men taking placebo as in those taking PROPECIA.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual effects.

- PROPECIA can affect a blood test called PSA (Prostate-Specific Antigen) for the screening of prostate cancer. If you have a PSA test done, you should tell your doctor that you are taking PROPECIA.

Storage and handling.

Keep PROPECIA in the original container and keep the container closed. Store it in a dry place at room temperature. PROPECIA tablets are coated and will prevent contact with the active ingredient during normal handling, provided that the tablets are not broken or crushed.

Do not give your PROPECIA tablets to anyone else. It has been prescribed only for you. Keep PROPECIA and all medications out of the reach of children.

THIS LEAFLET PROVIDES A SUMMARY OF INFORMATION ABOUT PROPECIA. IF AFTER READING THIS LEAFLET YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR ARE NOT SURE ABOUT ANYTHING, ASK YOUR DOCTOR.
1-888-806-3725, Monday through Friday, 8:30 A.M. TO 7:00 P.M. (ET).

Propecia™
(Finasteride) Tablets

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HIVCare Research Center

Offering **State-of-the-Art** Treatments For People with HIV

For newly diagnosed people

- 1 vs. 2 protease inhibitors, plus D4T and 3TC
- Either Crixivan or Crixivan plus Viracept
- 24-week study
- Free lab tests and study medications

For people who have taken Crixivan or Viracept and have detectable viral loads

- Either Crixivan or Viracept plus Agenerase (141) plus Ziagen (1592) plus 3TC
- 48-week study
- Free lab tests and study medications

For people who have taken Crixivan or Norvir and have detectable viral loads

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- 48-week study
- Free lab tests

2 short-term studies, compensation provided

- Peldesine, a promising new drug
- 6- to 8-week study
- Compensation \$325-375 at completion
- More than 300 CD4 cells

- AG1549, a promising new nonnucleoside
- Only people now taking Viracept, 3TC and AZT/D4T
- 6- to 8-week study
- Compensation \$600 at completion

For people with CD4 cells between 50-300

- IL-2 (interleukin 2, T-cell growth factor)
- 4- to 6-year study
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- Procrit (a red blood cell growth factor)
- Hemoglobin less than 11
- Procrit provided
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For people with advanced KS

- A new anti-angiogenesis drug SU5416
- Starves KS lesions
- May help individuals with KS swelling
- Compensation provided

HIVCare is a clinical research program of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital. For more information, please call **Mark Bowers at 415-353-6215**.

If you're HIV+, CRIVAN may help you live a longer, healthier life.



■ New NIH research showed people taking CRIVAN in triple therapy lived longer and experienced fewer opportunistic infections.

- Recent year-long research conducted by the National Institutes of Health (Protocol ACTG 320) studied over 1,000 patients and confirmed results from another study.
- The group of patients receiving CRIVAN along with 3TC and AZT achieved a reduction in deaths and AIDS-defining illnesses over those taking 3TC and AZT alone. This reduction was significant enough for the NIH to recommend the study be stopped, so that all participants could benefit from the findings. Because the study was ended early, there was insufficient data to determine the statistical impact of CRIVAN on survival.

■ CRIVAN in triple therapy continues to hold serum viral load down below the limit of detection at the one year mark.

- In a separate, ongoing landmark study, over 90% of the 31 patients receiving CRIVAN, AZT, and 3TC reduced their HIV serum viral load below the limit of detection after 24 weeks (as measured by available tests; the virus may still be present in other organ systems).
- Importantly, the limited number of patients who chose to stay with the study for longer periods of time maintained these results through the one year mark.

■ CRIVAN is generally well tolerated.

- CRIVAN can be taken with a light meal or on an empty stomach. There are side effects associated with protease inhibitors in general and CRIVAN in particular. Some patients treated with CRIVAN may develop kidney stones. For some, this can lead to more severe kidney problems including kidney failure. Drinking at least 6 glasses of water each day may help reduce the chance of forming a kidney stone. Other side effects reported include rapid breakdown of red blood cells and liver problems. There are some common medications and AIDS-related medications you should not take with CRIVAN. Discuss all medications you are taking or plan to take with your doctor.
- As with other protease inhibitors, increased bleeding in some patients with hemophilia and increased blood sugar levels or diabetes have been reported. Please read the following page for detailed information on side effects and dosing.

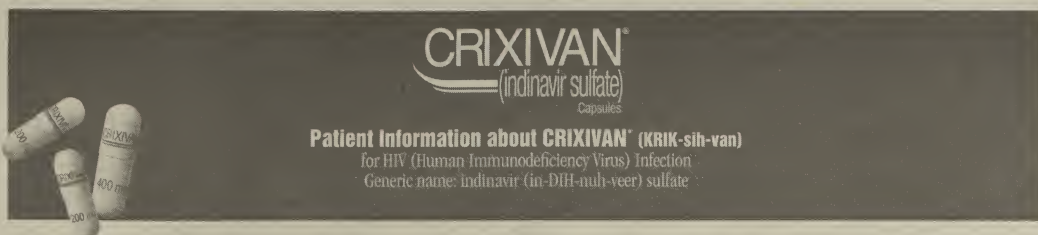
Please read the following page for more detailed information about CRIVAN.

**Remember to
ask your doctor
about CRIVAN.**

CRIVAN[®]
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Going the distance.

CRIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIVAN can help reduce the chance of illnesses and death associated with HIV. CRIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4T-cell count. Some patients may not experience these effects. CRIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS.



Please read this information before you start taking CRIXIVAN. Also, you should read the information included with CRIXIVAN each time you receive your prescription, just in case anything has changed. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussions with your doctor. You and your doctor should discuss CRIXIVAN when you start taking your medication and at regular checkups. You should remain under a doctor's care when using CRIXIVAN and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your doctor.

What is CRIXIVAN?

CRIXIVAN is an oral capsule used for the treatment of HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). CRIXIVAN is a type of HIV drug called a protease (PRO-tee-ase) inhibitor.

How does CRIXIVAN work?

CRIXIVAN is a protease inhibitor that fights HIV. CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN can also help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

CRIXIVAN is usually prescribed with other anti-HIV drugs such as ZDV (also called AZT), 3TC, ddI, ddC, or d4T. CRIXIVAN works differently from these other anti-HIV drugs. Talk with your doctor about how you should take CRIXIVAN.

CRIXIVAN has been studied in adults. The safety and effectiveness of CRIXIVAN in children and adolescents have not been established.

How should I take CRIXIVAN?

There are six important things you must do to help you benefit from CRIXIVAN:

1. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every day as prescribed by your doctor.** Continue taking CRIXIVAN unless your doctor tells you to stop. Take the exact amount of CRIXIVAN that your doctor tells you to take, right from the very start. To help make sure you will benefit from CRIXIVAN, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays." If you don't take CRIXIVAN as prescribed, the activity of CRIXIVAN may be reduced (due to resistance).
2. **Take CRIXIVAN capsules every 8 hours around the clock, every day.** It may be easier to remember to take CRIXIVAN if you take it at the same time every day. If you have questions about when to take CRIXIVAN, your doctor or health care provider can help you decide what schedule works for you.
3. **If you miss a dose by more than 2 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time.** However, if you miss a dose by less than 2 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of CRIXIVAN at any one time.
4. **Take CRIXIVAN with water.** You can also take CRIXIVAN with other beverages such as skim or non-fat milk, juice, coffee, or tea.
5. **Ideally, take each dose of CRIXIVAN without food but with water at least one hour before or two hours after a meal.** Or you can take CRIXIVAN with a light meal. Examples of light meals include:
 - dry toast with jelly, juice, and coffee (with skim or non-fat milk and sugar if you want)
 - corn flakes with skim or non-fat milk and sugar
 Do not take CRIXIVAN at the same time as any meals that are high in calories, fat, and protein (for example — a bacon and egg breakfast). When taken at the same time as CRIXIVAN, these foods can interfere with CRIXIVAN being absorbed into your bloodstream and may lessen its effect.
6. **It is critical that you drink at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) throughout the day, every day. CRIXIVAN can cause kidney stones.** Having enough fluids in your body should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Does CRIXIVAN cure HIV or AIDS?

CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking CRIXIVAN may still develop infections or other conditions associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important for you to remain under the care of a doctor. Although CRIXIVAN is not a cure for HIV or AIDS, CRIXIVAN can help reduce your chances of getting illnesses, including death, associated with HIV. CRIXIVAN may not have these effects in all patients.

Does CRIXIVAN reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

CRIXIVAN has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take CRIXIVAN?

Do not take CRIXIVAN if you have had a serious allergic reaction to CRIXIVAN or any of its components.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while you are taking CRIXIVAN. We do not yet know how CRIXIVAN affects pregnant women or their developing babies.
 - You are breast-feeding. You should stop breast-feeding if you are taking CRIXIVAN. Also talk to your doctor if you have:
 - Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease caused by cirrhosis.
 - Problems with your kidneys.
 - Diabetes
 - Hemophilia
- Tell your doctor about any medicines you are taking or plan to take, including non-prescription medicines.

Can CRIXIVAN be taken with other medications?*

Drugs you should not take with CRIXIVAN:

SELDANE® (terfenadine) HISMANAL® (astemizole)
VERSED® (midazolam) HALCION® (triazolam)
PROPULSID® (cisapride) Ergot medications (e.g., Wigraine® and Cafergot®)
Taking CRIXIVAN with the above medications could result in serious or life-threatening problems (such as irregular heartbeat or excessive sleepiness).
In addition, you should not take CRIXIVAN with rifampin, known as RIFADIN®, RIFAMATE®, RIFATER®, or RIMACTANE®.

Drugs you can take with CRIXIVAN include:

RETROVIR® (zidovudine, ZDV also called AZT) BIAVIN® (clarithromycin)
TAGAMET® (cimetidine) isoniazid (INH)
DIFLUCAN® (fluconazole) ORTHO-NOVUM 1/35® (oral contraceptive)
EPIVIR™ (lamivudine, 3TC) ZERIT® (stavudine, d4T)
BACTRIM®/SEPTA® (trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole)
VIDEX® (didanosine, ddI) — If you take CRIXIVAN with VIDEX®, take them at least one hour apart.
MYCOBUTIN® (rifabutin) — If you take CRIXIVAN with MYCOBUTIN®, your doctor may adjust both the dose of MYCOBUTIN and the dose of CRIXIVAN.
NIZORAL® (ketoconazole) — If you take CRIXIVAN with NIZORAL®, your doctor may adjust the dose of CRIXIVAN.

Talk to your doctor about any medications you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of CRIXIVAN?

Like all prescription drugs, CRIXIVAN can cause side effects. The following is not a complete list of side effects reported with CRIXIVAN when taken either alone or with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this page alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN developed kidney stones. In some of these patients this led to more severe kidney problems, including kidney failure or inflammation of the kidneys. Drinking at least six 8-ounce glasses of liquid (preferably water) each day should help reduce the chances of forming a kidney stone. Call your doctor or other health care provider if you develop kidney pains (middle to lower stomach or back pain) or blood in the urine.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had rapid breakdown of red blood cells (hemolytic anemia) which in some cases was severe or resulted in death.

Some patients treated with CRIXIVAN have had liver problems including liver failure and death. Some patients had other illnesses or were taking other drugs. It is uncertain if CRIXIVAN caused these liver problems.

Diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) have occurred in patients taking protease inhibitors. In some of these patients, this led to ketoacidosis, a serious condition caused by poorly controlled blood sugar. Some patients had diabetes before starting protease inhibitors, others did not. Some patients required adjustments to their diabetes medication. Others needed new diabetes medication.

In some patients with hemophilia, increased bleeding has been reported.

Clinical Studies

Increases in bilirubin (one laboratory test of liver function) have been reported in approximately 10% of patients. Usually, this finding has not been associated with liver problems. However, on rare occasions, a person may develop yellowing of the skin and/or eyes.

Side effects occurring in 2% or more of patients included: abdominal pain, fatigue or weakness, flank pain, feeling unwell, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, acid regurgitation, loss of appetite, dry mouth, back pain, headache, trouble sleeping, dizziness, taste changes, rash, upper respiratory infection, dry skin, and sore throat.

Swollen kidneys due to blocked urine flow occurred rarely.

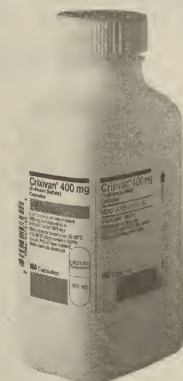
Marketing Experience

Other side effects reported since CRIXIVAN has been marketed include: abdominal swelling; inflammation of the kidneys; increased fat appearing in areas such as the neck, abdomen, and back; change in skin color; severe skin reactions; hair loss; crystals in the urine; and allergic reactions.

Tell your doctor promptly about these or any other unusual symptoms. If the condition persists or worsens, seek medical attention.

How should I store CRIXIVAN capsules?

- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules in the bottle they came in and at room temperature (59°F-86°F).
- Keep CRIXIVAN capsules dry by leaving the small desiccant "pillow" in the bottle. Keep the bottle closed.



This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep CRIXIVAN and all medicines out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

This provides a summary of information about CRIXIVAN. If you have any questions or concerns about either CRIXIVAN or HIV, talk to your doctor.

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CRIXIVAN®
(indinavir sulfate)
Capsules

Kitchen TV surprises wife

by Ron McGlashan

A woman walked into the Northern Station of the SFPD with her husband and told officers she wanted her husband "out of their house at once." She said her husband spent the night out, and when he returned home with a female friend she awoke to "sounds of hot, screaming passion" from the kitchen. The husband and wife later discovered that the female guest had male genitalia, which upset the wife and caused her to drag her husband down to the police station. The man said he had taken gamma hydroxy butyrate acid (GHB), and that all he could remember is that he had been at the End Up. He then said that he wanted to press charges of rape against his transvestite friend. The officers apparently laughed at him and would not report his charges, and the couple left the station.

Rocks in pockets, rocks in head

Thursday, April 1, 2 a.m., 18th and Collingwood streets: A man reported that a youth near Collingwood Park had said he was out to "kill all faggots." The suspect was located at 19th and Collingwood streets by a Castro patrol officer and a responding Mission Station unit. The suspect was found to be intoxicated, and a search of his person revealed several rocks in his pockets. The minor was admonished, transported to his home in the Sunset District by Officer Lisa Frazer, and released to his parents.

Blind man punched at Harvey Milk Plaza

Monday, April 5, 4 p.m., Harvey

Milk Plaza: A blind man reported to the Hate Crime Division of the SFPD that a suspect approached him as he was leaving the Muni Metro at Castro Station, and asked, "What are you, blind?" The victim was then punched in the jaw and fell to the sidewalk. No robbery or other motive for the assault was involved and inspectors are looking at this as a possible hate crime because the victim is disabled. Several witnesses came forward and described the suspect as a white male, with a thin build, black hair, and a high-pitched voice, wearing a bulky, dark red sweater with gold letters on the back.

Fags, flags, and gags

Monday, April 5, 10 p.m., The Bar on Castro, 456 Castro Street: According to staff at the bar, two men in their mid-20s approached the bartender and said they were there to collect \$100 for a rainbow flag the owner had ordered. When the bartender said he had to call the owner to verify the order, the suspects left the bar and were last seen leaving in a white Dodge van. According to Morgan Gorrone, owner of The Bar on Castro, no rainbow flag had been ordered for his establishment.

To catch a (dog) thief

Monday, March 30, 1:30 p.m., Leticia's restaurant, 2247 Market Street; Tuesday, April 6, 11:30 p.m., Bagdad Café, 2295 Market Street: Two dogs were stolen in the Castro within a week, and the owners are asking for help from the Cas-

tro lesbian and gay community.

A tan wolf/dingo/shepherd mix named Rafe was taken while his owners were having lunch at Leticia's restaurant. He was leashed to the tree fronting the restaurant, wearing a green harness. According to his owners, Rafe is very wild, not friendly, and is scared of almost everyone. He has a lesion on the right side of his face and needs his medication on a regular basis. If you have seen Rafe, please call (415) 567-6643, or pager (415) 791-2231; if you have Rafe, take

him to the SPCA Animal Shelter at 15th and Harrison streets.

Alfredo, an Australian cattle dog with blue eyes, was tied up outside Bagdad Café while his owner was having a late meal. The owner claims the suspect is believed to be a homeless man with dyed red hair, piercings, and black army boots, who was making faces at her through the restaurant's window as she ate her food. When she went outside to check on Alfredo, he was gone and so was the suspect. If you see Alfredo or know his whereabouts, call Animal Care and Control at (415) 554-6364.

Both incidents are considered grand theft. ▼



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Welcome to our diverse and inclusive Community of Faith.

ih

Blue Nitro still sold in Castro, DPH panel asks gays to boycott shops

by Mark Norby

Since the San Francisco Police Department (SFPD) declared Blue Nitro illegal in January, reports of continued overdose of the liquid have reached the desk of California Governor Gray Davis, prompting calls for an immediate statewide ban on the product. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is also focusing on the continued sales of Blue Nitro in the city and is urging the lesbian and gay community to boycott shops in the Castro that still sell it.

The bluish-green liquid touted as "a legal alternative to gamma hydroxy butyrate (GHB) acid," once widely sold throughout San Francisco's gay neighborhoods, is marketed by Nutrition City Network, Inc. as a dietary supplement with several health benefits. Among them are improved sleep, improved mood, enhanced sex, as well as being a fat-burning, body-building nutrient.

But the SFPD has reported several incidents of overdose, especially when Blue Nitro is mixed with alcohol, which can cause blackouts or even a comatose state. "It's being sold in the Castro and in South of Market clubs," Lieutenant Kitt Crenshaw of the SFPD said at a state Assembly Committee meeting Tuesday,

April 6. "A lot of people think it's just drinking water, and they pass out. This drug is very dangerous, and if we don't do something to outlaw this drug, I can see it being even more of an epidemic."

Blue Nitro is readily available via Nutrition City Network's website and through mail order. But as calls for an immediate ban grow louder, "any person possessing the product could face prosecution," according to Ron McGlashan with the SFPD's office of public affairs.

The active ingredient in Blue Nitro is gamma butyrolactone (GBL) which, according to the DPH as well as the product's manufacturer, metabolizes into GHB. Since GHB is widely regarded as a dangerous "date-rape drug," with fatal consequences when combined with alcohol, public health officials now consider Blue Nitro and all substances containing GBL to be as dangerous as GHB.

Additionally, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Substance Abuse Advisory Committee (LGBTQQAAC) of the DPH has issued a statement claiming that at least three gay-owned stores in the Castro District continue to sell Blue Nitro and other "illegal substances," in spite of known health risks. "There has been a recent crack-

page 21 ►

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Destination Foundation offers trips to PWAs, breast cancer patients

April 22 benefit for new organization

by Cynthia Laird

A gay San Francisco man has turned a dream into reality, working with friends and family, and has started a new non-profit foundation to grant others' dreams. Specifically, the Destination Foundation grants "dream" vacations for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people living with AIDS, breast cancer, and other life-threatening illnesses.

The foundation has granted three trips since incorporating last year. Another two recipients will be announced at a San Francisco benefit next Thursday, April 22.

Tim Hepworth, the foundation's volunteer executive director, started the foundation after his partner of 10 years, James L. Poole, passed away from AIDS complications in 1997. Approximately \$5,000 from Poole's estate was used to start the foundation's endowment; the annual budget for this year is \$90,000 and until now, money has been raised primarily through private donations and fundraisers. Next week's benefit is the first public event for the fledgling foundation.

Hepworth said the foundation has a goal of granting 12 dream trips this year; so far, three trips have been granted. John Akridge and his partner Michael Akridge just returned Sunday, April 11 from a Windstar cruise to the Caribbean. They viewed the trip as a long-delayed honeymoon; the two men had a commitment ceremony five years ago. "I'd just gotten out of the hospital," John Akridge told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "It was the honeymoon we



Back from cruising: Destination Foundation grant recipient John Akridge, center, with his partner Michael Akridge, left, and Executive Director Tim Hepworth.

were never able to afford."

East Bay resident Erik Jacobsen is planning a trip to London later this year, Hepworth said.

The first trip was made by Daniel Davis, the surviving partner of John Gianni, who died before he had a chance to travel. Davis went to Hawaii, where he scattered Gianni's ashes.

"We're concentrating on HIV patients and breast cancer patients," Hepworth told the *B.A.R.*, who added that two women living with breast cancer are the next grant recipients.

Not a dying wish

The premise behind the Destination Foundation is not the imminence of death. "Our grants do not have to be a dying wish," Hepworth said. "They can simply be alternative medicine to heal the body and spirit — a welcome respite after a rough round of chemotherapy or a long hospital stay."

Prior to starting the Destination Foundation, Hepworth lived in Southern California where he was a successful corporate interior architect. He has done volunteer work with the AIDS Project Los Angeles positive and negative couples support groups and has participated in AIDS Walk Los Angeles, AIDS Walk San Francisco, and Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays' (PFLAG) march on Washington.

In helping start the foundation, Hepworth drew on Poole's

experience when he was alive. "As an American Airlines flight attendant, Jim's travels to 72 countries helped him live with AIDS for 13 years. Each adventure let him temporarily escape his illness and take a hiatus from doctors and clinics. The healing power of these trips is what sparked the idea to create a foundation that makes travel wishes come true for others who are very sick."

Poole's mother and sister, Patricia T. Guthrie and Jane M. Lewis, conceived the foundation with Hepworth, and incorporated it on what would have been Poole's 40th birthday last October 31. Dr. Jacob Lalezari, director of Quest Clinical Research, and Barbara Brenner, executive director of Breast Cancer Action, review requests and make grant recommendations. It has a six-member board of directors and five advisors to the board. Hepworth said the board and advisors comprise a rich mixture of cultures, sexual orientations, and genders. All board members are volunteers, and Hepworth does not collect any pay from the foundation.

While Destination Foundation is concentrating on San Francisco residents, they also get grant recommendations from people living in North Bay and East Bay communities. Lalezari sees patients from throughout the area, and Breast Cancer Action also serves people in the region. Once a recipient has been recommended,

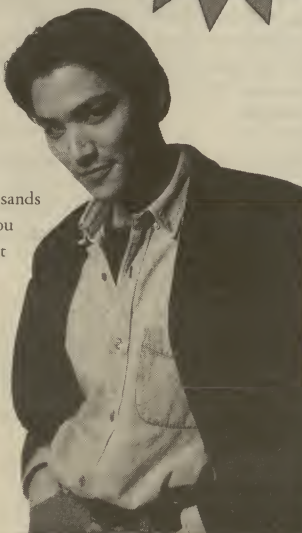
page 23 ►

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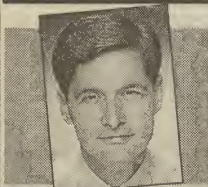
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Leather Leadership Conference opens in SF tomorrow

by Liz Highleyman

Leaders of the leather/SM/fetish community will converge on San Francisco this weekend, for the third annual Leather Leadership Conference (LLC) from April 16-18.

Unlike the many leather conferences that revolve around contests, dungeon parties, and workshops on SM technique, the LLC is devoted to organizing, community building, and the development of practical leadership skills.

The first LLC was held in 1997 after conference originator John Weis, of New York's Gay Male SM Activists, was inspired by the wealth of organizing information he gleaned from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Creating Change Conference. Weis observed that many people in the leather community had little training in skills such as volunteer management, fundraising, and public speaking. He organized the conference to help develop these skills, believing that "the more tools we have as activists, the better jobs we'll do with whatever work is at hand, from organizing a local fundraiser to more effectively dealing with the press."

The LLC aims to bring together subgroups within the leather/SM/fetish communities that are often at odds, such as those with different sexual orientations and specific fetish interests. This year organizers are making a special effort to increase diversity, and the conference will have a track devoted to issues of people of color in leather communities. According to New York City leather activist Lolita Wolf, "Our community has opened up tremendously in the past decade, with more groups, more people seeking to learn and connect ... and also more instances of discrimination and violence against us. LLC was formed to help us learn the skills to organize and manage our groups, as well as to deal with outside forces like the media and the law."

This is the first year the LLC will be held outside of New York City. Steven Koenig of the Society of Janus and Peter Fiske of the 15 Association are this year's local co-directors. Koenig envisioned a San Francisco conference as "an opportunity for a pansexual pro-



Mister Marcus, not in leather

ject that could unite our community." He continued, "At LLC, you'll find someone who has already done what you are trying to do. Take advantage of this experience."

The conference will bring together many well-known names in leather/SM/fetish and will address a wide range of topics. Among the over 40 presentations are a Friday evening keynote address by Guy Baldwin, who told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "This conference is important because changing the world isn't as easy as one might think. ... It takes some planning as a rule"; a presentation on deaf leather issues with former Mr. International Deaf Leather Daniel Sonnenfeld; a discussion of the role of titleholders with former International Mr. Leather Joe Gallagher; an Internet panel featuring Race Bannon of Daedalus Publishing, Roger Klorese of Queernet, and author Jack Rinella; and a media skills session with former Mr. San Francisco Leather Gary Virginia, Robert Davolt of *Drummer* magazine, and the B.A.R.'s own Mr. Marcus. Jed Herman of the Stop AIDS project will describe the organization's "Leatherfuck" community forums and SM safety education initiatives, and anthropologist and leather historian Gayle Rubin will

discuss the growing threat of the radical right.

According to Rubin, "Increased public awareness of leather and SM has been accompanied by increased public fear. We need to be prepared to combat tendencies to scapegoat SM for various social problems, or to blame SM and leather for criminal conduct. ... Elements of the radical right wing are increasingly using anti-SM rhetoric and targeting SM practice in a variety of ways, and this presents a danger to our safety and well-being."

The conference will conclude on Sunday with a presentation on leather history by Alan Selby of Mr. S. Leather, Joseph Bean of the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago, and Willie Walker of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society of Northern California (GLHSNC).

Objectives

According to conference organizers, one of the goals of LLC is "to develop and strengthen the leadership and management skills of existing and potential new leather/fetish/SM community leaders and activists." Yet developing leaders is no simple task. According to Bean, "The question of how people rise to leadership in the leather community is endlessly debated. People argue that publishers and businessmen are 'buying' their elevated status, that titleholders are seen as leaders when their qualifications only prove that they are attractive, that writers are pushing their own points of view rather than actually leading for the sake of the community."

"It seems to me that the LLC is silent on these subjects and doesn't graduate leaders," he continued. "What it really does - and does very well - is teach the workers in leather communities to do well and effectively the work that they are either already doing or feel the need to do. If actually working for and in our communities eventually makes a person a leader, then the LLC is a major resource in building leaders. If not, it's still doing a great job empowering leather 'foot soldiers.'"

In addition to developing leadership, LLC also has the more controversial goal of "develop[ing] and promulgat[ing] broad-scope

leather/fetish/SM community policy." One such policy is a statement on "SM vs. Abuse," a draft document that was released at the 1998 LLC and will be further discussed this year. The statement attempts to codify the standards of "safe, sane, and consensual" SM behavior, standards that some feel have evolved into strict rules that violate the very principles of sexual freedom that drew many into leather and sexual minority communities in the first place.

In the words of the GLHSNC's Walker, "This conference is a perfect opportunity to reach a variety of key people in the leather, SM, and kink communities. ... Once again, the leather crowd is way out ahead of everyone else in effective organizing." ▼

The LLC will take place at the Golden Gateway Holiday Inn on Van Ness at California. Registration is \$75. For more information, call (415) 461-5020 or visit the website at www.leatherweb.com/LLCIII.

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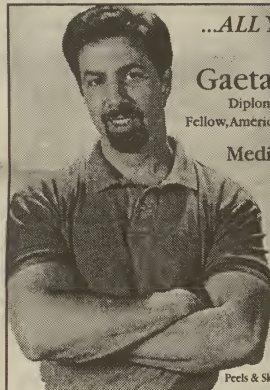
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Colorado pol defends leather leadership

United Press International

Gay Denver City Council candidate Kevin Shancady defends his participation in "Mr. Leather" pageants as simply an element of his political activism.

Conceding his Mr. Leather appearances - and two titles - are unusual for a political candidate, Shancady says he used the shows to promote safe sex and battle Amendment 2, the 1992 anti-gay rights initiative that eventually won voter approval. The measure was ruled unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1996.

Some of the pageants featured sex acts on stage, with Shancady taking part. But the 38-year-old first-time office seeker says the "fantasy segments" were to show

"a positive image of our sexuality."

Shancady says the events were also aimed at raising funds for AIDS causes. Still, Shancady acknowledges that even some members of the gay community are "queasy" about his role in the pageants.

His challenge of City Councilman Ed Thomas has caught on because of the district's large gay and lesbian population.

Ironically, the police and firefighters' unions endorsed Shancady because they are angry at Thomas - an ex-cop - for taking stances unpopular among the ranks.

A third candidate for the office, radio executive Mason Lewis Byrne, is also gay. But Byrne says his business experience better qualifies him for the office. ▼



Kevin Shancady

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SFAF denounces forged letter

by Mike Salinas

Pranksterism is alive and well in the Bay Area's AIDS activist community. Perhaps prompted by April Fool's Day, an unknown person or group sent out a letter earlier this month that looked like a communication from the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF), but was actually a hoax.

Addressed "Dear friend," and purportedly signed by SFAF Executive Director Pat Christen, the two-page letter announced sweeping changes to most of the policies that have frustrated AIDS activists as the foundation grew over the last two decades from a grassroots organization to a \$19.7 million behemoth.

The letter began by announcing the creation of a "subsidies fund" that would disburse cash grants to foundation clients, a fund allegedly made possible by using "our \$3 million in the bank, slashing expense accounts, and reducing financial compensation for the agency's executives."

The letter then went on to address that compensation, SFAF detractors' most common complaint. It promised that all executives at the foundation would limit their salaries to \$90,000 per year, and those currently making more than that amount would submit to a pay cut, a move that would reduce SFAF's expenditures by more than \$150,000 each year. (Next month the foundation will release its most recent financial forms — for the 1997-98 fiscal year, not this year — so current figures are not available, but based on 1996 salaries, a salary cap on just four of the better-compensated executives would save \$85,957. If Christen accepted the salary cap, it would save another \$85,000.)

Christen revealed her current salary of \$175,000, not including benefits and bonuses, when she went public with news of the fraudulent letter the next day. In a memo sent to likely recipients, she referred to herself in the third person, but was unapologetic, in

stating "the executive director's total compensation [was in 1996-97] \$176,742 (salary, benefits, and bonus). The executive director's current salary is \$175,000, which will be reflected in the [IRS reporting form] for 1999." In contrast to the prank letter's declaration that "I am here to fight AIDS, not get rich," Christen's response stated "the foundation's philosophy for compensation is to maintain the most skilled and competent workforce at all levels of the organization to carry out our mission. This approach has provided a high caliber, stable workforce that is essential in maintaining quality services and advocacy for people affected by HIV/AIDS."

Despite Christen's assertion, the workforce at the foundation has been markedly less stable in recent months, with turnovers in virtually every staff department over the last year. In fact, SFAF is now fighting off at least 12 em-



SFAF Exec. Director Pat Christen

ployment-related complaints, filed through a variety of channels. [See story, front page.]

Christen's response also rebutted the "misinformed, unethical, and illegal" hoax letter's claims

SFAF

◀ page 1

HSTS had been asked to apply for a position during the reconfiguration process," stated Dubón. After meeting with Susan Haikalas, HSTS director, on July 31, 1998, Dubón still had no formal job offer and instead gave her a letter in which he opted for the severance package offered to other employees who had elected to leave rather than accept new positions in HSTS.

E.D. phones home

Christen later called Dubón at home and said what had occurred was a "mistake," and she wanted to meet with him; he declined. On August 1, Dubón got a phone message from Durazzo, and the next day, Dubón got the handwritten note from Christen.

Dubón told the *Bay Area Reporter* Monday, April 12 that he and his partner, who is living with HIV, were upset by the move. "It

was one of the tactics of intimidation," Dubón said. "My partner is HIV-positive and she [Christen] doesn't care."

In the letter, a copy of which was provided to the B.A.R., Christen stated she was "deeply saddened" by Dubón's decision to leave the foundation. She also stated that if she did not hear from Dubón by Monday morning, she would "assume that you want your decision to leave the foundation to be final."

In his written response to Christen, Dubón was critical of receiving the note at his residence, and said that his departure from SFAF was not voluntarily, but "an enforced layoff driven by discriminatory actions and manipulative misinformation by SFAF upper management."

Dubón at first hired a private attorney but settlement talks went nowhere so he filed his complaint with the HRC.

Mary Gin Starkweather, HRC's contract compliance officer handling the SFAF complaints, told the B.A.R. that the commission is "actively working" to resolve Dubón's complaint.

SFAF 'like third world'

Starkweather said she doesn't know whether the other HRC complaints filed by current and former SFAF employees are valid, as the foundation has yet to respond. Initially, HRC granted the foundation an extension, but then denied SFAF's attorney Miriam Wugmeister's request for additional time after HRC received second complaints from some workers stating that alleged discrimination had accelerated and they were experiencing retaliation as a result of the initial complaints being filed.

Former SFAF employee Virginia Velez has also filed a state and an EEOC complaint, in which she alleges discrimination and stated that she was hired at a lower rate of pay than other employees who are Caucasian. "My skills, experience, and education are minimized and whenever possible, dismissed, while others who are Caucasian are regarded in the brightest light and given responsibilities and staff to supervise to enhance their professional development," Velez stated. She was hired as a shift scheduling supervisor in the community information and education department.

Several current employees who have filed complaints said they didn't want to be publicly identi-

fied because they fear recrimination by the foundation; however, copies of their complaints show that some were allegedly belittled by SFAF management and called into meetings where they were threatened with disciplinary action.

Jano Oscherwitz, field representative with the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 790, which represents SFAF line staff, told the B.A.R. that complaints of alleged racial discrimination are nothing new at the foundation. In addition to the HRC and EEOC complaints, Local 790 filed a charge of coercion against the foundation with the National Labor Relations Board. That case is pending.

"The union filed it on behalf of several employees," Oscherwitz said, adding she's not surprised by the other complaints. "Discrimination has been going on for years; there were over 14 charges based on race before the union got involved. I'm a lesbian and I'm surprised the gay community has not been more vocal."

SFAF's workers became union-

ized in late 1994.

Oscherwitz reiterated the fear

employees have about coming

forward with allegations and

pointed to sections of SFAF's personnel

handbook that prohibit

employees from talking to the

media without prior approval

from management, as well as no-

tification that employees' phone

calls, voice mail, e-mail, computer

files, and other material can be

monitored at any time.

"Employees are not authorized

to ... discuss internal operations

of the Foundation," the personnel

handbook states.

"The way SFAF is being run is

like a third world country," Os-

cherwitz told the B.A.R. "Employees

are afraid to meet with me."

Gustavo Suárez, SFAF's commu-

nications director, told the

B.A.R. that it's the foundation's

policy not to comment on per-

sonnel matters. He added that the

foundation takes allegations of

discrimination seriously.

"The foundation values a di-

verse workforce and takes allega-

tions of discrimination seriously

and investigates quite thorough-

ly," Suárez said. He added that

union negotiations are set to

begin soon. Additionally, Suárez

said the foundation is not spend-

ing any of its \$19.7 million annu-

al budget battling the allegations.

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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Kenneth D. Gardels



A memorial to celebrate the life of Kenneth D. Gardels will be held on April 27, 4 p.m., at Swedenborgian Church, 2107 Lyon St. near Washington St. in San Francisco.

Kenneth died April 2 of hepatocellular carcinoma, which was diagnosed the first week of 1999. Though able to manage and thrive with AIDS, his struggle with cancer was overwhelming. He died at home, in his bed, in the arms of his mother, Louise O. Gardels from Cincinnati, his sister, Kathy Gardels Jenkins from Massachusetts, and his partner Larry Espinosa.

Kenneth was born in New Jersey and lived in many states while growing up. He earned a BA in anthropology from USC and a Masters in Landscape Architecture from U.C. Berkeley, his employer for the last 14 years. Well known in his field of GIS, Geographical Information Systems, Kenn was a founding member of OpenGIS, a worldwide consortium to promote standards in the academic and business world. An annual award in his honor

was created and presented to Kenn in early March.

Kenn liked traveling, visiting all U.S. states and more than 30 countries. A familiar face at many fundraisers, he was a part-time resident of Monte Rio, where he had a cabin.

In lieu of flowers, send donations to AIDS Emergency Fund, 1540 Market St., Suite 320, San Francisco, CA 94102.

Philip Gordon MacDonald



Born on January 6, 1941 in Weehawken, New Jersey, Philip died in his sleep on March 29, 1999. A resident of San Francisco since 1960 and an SF State graduate, Philip drove the bookmobile for

Marin County Library for years, and later directed the Marin Literacy Program and Literacy Volunteers of America in Berkeley. He loved books.

In recent years Philip enjoyed working for the American Lung Association of the East Bay, which celebrated his life on April 8. Predeceased by his parents Philip MacDonald and Isabelle Zeher MacDonald, he is survived by his beloved step-mother Agnes MacDonald of Bonita Springs, Florida; cousins Carol Cauvin of Vancouver, Washington and Barbara Boyles of Middletown, New Jersey; San Francisco friends Robert Holmes, Mickay Miller, Cynthia Yaroshoff, Wayne Morris, and Andrew Cronin among others; London friends Tom Stone, Murray Winter, Trevor Rodd, and William Henderson; and many friends from work.

Russian Orthodox services were held on April 6, 1999, with interment in Serbian Cemetery in Colma. Memorial contributions can be made to American Lung Association of the East Bay, Philip MacDonald Memorial Fund, 295 27th St., Oakland, CA 94612.

David Adam Skolkin

November 27, 1966 — March 30, 1999

Adam died clean and sober (anniversary 6/15/98) and peacefully of liver disease on Tuesday, March 30,



1999. He is survived by his lover Steven Goings, mother Linda, father Jack, sisters Jennifer and Tracey, best friends Karen Newcombe, Jeff Stelley, and many other friends.

Many will remember Adam from his long tenure as the dynamic bartender at Cafe San Marcos. There will be a memorial service for Adam at the National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park on Saturday, April 24, at 1:30 p.m. For more information, or to make a contribution to have Adam's name inscribed in stone at the grove's permanent memorial, please call Karen at (415) 558-9475 or Steven at (415) 255-0731.

Adam, we all love you and miss you terribly.

Glenn Allen Stewart

March 2, 1966 — March 22, 1999



Barely 33 years old, Glenn succumbed to respiratory failure caused by pulmonary KS. Throughout his entire 12-year fight against AIDS, even while living with excruciating pain, Glenn's will to live

never waned. He taught us all the meaning of courage and perseverance.

He was the happiest, most loving and most handsome man I've ever known. Through his gorgeous smile and gregarious attitude, Glenn brought joy to everyone he knew.

Glenn is survived by his incredibly loving Mother, Zella; his brothers Kevin, Ricky and Edmund; his sisters Roxanna and Cindy; and his devoted friends Gary, Kevin, and myself, Ken.

There was a memorial service at MCC-Portland on March 27th. On June 26th, Ken will scatter Glenn's ashes in his adopted home, Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, where he will be surrounded by his familia Mexicana, Alonso, Armando, Carmen and Octavio.

Rest well Glenn, you surely deserve it. We love you and we'll all be together again. And boy, are we going to party!

Brownie Mary

◀ page 1

for our politicians, and she cared for the gay community in ways that will always be remembered. She's in a better place now, but we'll never forget what she has done for all of us."

Murray said his production company is focusing on turning the planned variety show into a memorial service for Rathbun. "We would like to turn it into a celebration of her life and to 'make it so' in remembrance of a beautiful woman," he added.

Rathbun was born December 22, 1921 to a conservative Irish Catholic mother who unwittingly named her Mary Jane. Little did her mother know that her daughter would devote many years of her life to "Mary Jane" -- as in marijuana -- as she became the world-famous Brownie Mary, providing cannabis-laced brownies to people with AIDS as a way of easing their pain.

Rathbun once said, with her usual spunk and vigor, "Given my background and reputation, and my adopted name, Brownie Mary, my poor old mother is surely turning cartwheels in her grave."

"It serves her right."

Rathbun spoke up in support of

progressive causes from an early age and continued to do so to the end of her life. She became an activist in her late teens when she traveled with a group of friends from Chicago to Wisconsin to support union rights for miners. She moved to San Francisco in the early days of World War II, intent on "capturing a military man." She first attained notoriety in the 1970s as a grandmotherly woman who sold marijuana and her now-famous marijuana brownies and cannabis recipes. She gave birth to one daughter with her "captured military man," as she called her late husband, but their daughter died tragically in an automobile accident in the early 1970s, a loss that caused her years of sadness and grief.

"I think losing her daughter led Mary to a sense of deep compassion for her kids with AIDS here in San Francisco," said Peron. "But she never wanted to talk about her own life. She would talk about anything else first, and she was always ready to start a four-letter argument about politics and issues, or about her kids that she loved so much, that felt abandoned by their families, their friends, and even their lovers. But she never abandoned a single one of them. She would say 'They need me, they are my kids, and

sometimes I'm all they've got.'"

Rathbun's family remained her cadre of fellow activists and her kids that she cared for in Ward 86 at San Francisco General Hospital, where she devoted 14 years of her life to helping take care of those suffering from AIDS.

"Mary eased the thought of death and dying for her kids, like a Christ figure," Peron said. "But she was a devout atheist. She always wore a button on her blouse that said 'Jesus, protect me from your followers.' And in the midst of my sadness over losing her, I had a vision the other day of Mary standing before the gates of heaven. She was standing there and God said to Mary, 'You've been an atheist your whole life. You smoked a lot, you drank a lot, you cussed a lot. And now you want to get into heaven.'"

"Then Mary replies to God, 'Yes, you're right. I've done all those things. But if you let me through the gates of heaven, I've got 12 pot brownies for you here in my bag, and I'm sure you'll enjoy them.'"

The Monday event starts at 8 p.m. at Theater Rhinoceros, 2926 16th Street. For more information, call (415) 861-5079.

and shop at other stores."

Assemblyman Mike Honda (D-San Jose), who chairs the Assembly Public Safety Committee, wrote a measure that would outlaw elixirs like Blue Nitro. "Date-rape drugs have no place in California," Honda stated at the Assembly meeting, "and Blue Nitro has no place being marketed as a dietary supplement." The measure requires two-thirds vote of the Legislature in order for Governor Davis to implement an immediate ban. ▼

owners in the Castro suspected of continued Blue Nitro sales are harming the community they are designed to serve. "These business owners claim to be a part of the community, but in reality are doing little to support the community and instead contribute to its demise," Soliz's committee is asking the Castro shops to voluntarily stop selling Blue Nitro and for the lesbian and gay community, "especially the gay male community, to look at his or her own conscience

Blue Nitro

◀ page 17

down by the SFPD on sellers of Blue Nitro," said Gloria Soliz, co-chair of the LGBTQSAAAC. "Since the crackdown, most business owners agreed to quit selling the product. However, this illegal product continues to be sold even after reports of its harms and dangers had been illuminated."

Soliz also stated that business

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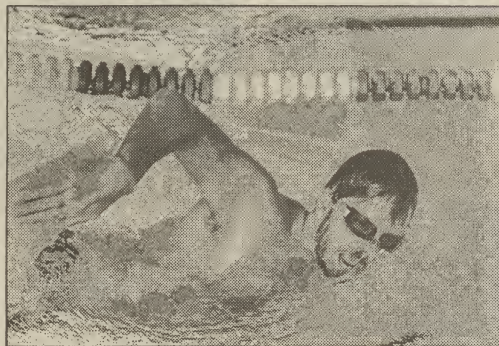
Bay Area swimmers honored, preparing for IGLA championships

by Jim Provenzano

Dolphins can sing and swim at the same time, and don't need technology to communicate. Until we evolve up to their level, there are always queer swimmers, who've raised money, won honors, and have a big gathering coming up this summer; it's reason enough to bypass your usual vacation for the 1999 International Gay & Lesbian Aquatics (IGLA) Championships June 18-20 in Atlanta. IGLA is the world's foremost international organization solely devoted to developing and promoting gay swimming, water polo, and diving.

Over 1,000 swimmers, divers, and water polo players will compete at the Georgia Tech Aquatics Center, site of the 1996 Olympic Games aquatics competition. Members of host team Atlanta Rainbow Trout have invited aquatic athletes from 30 United States teams and eight teams in Europe, Oceania, and Africa.

The Atlanta IGLA Championships will be the first international assembly for the organization since 1997, when affiliated teams competed in San Diego. IGLA competitors gathered in Amsterdam (or more precisely, Amersfoort, a city over an hour away from Amsterdam) representing their na-



IGLA records keeper and competitive swimmer Rick Windes.

tional teams in August 1998 to compete in the Gay Games.

"Atlanta Rainbow Trout team members are proud to host the 1999 IGLA Championships and look forward to welcoming all competitors," said John Brown, 1999 IGLA Championships director and a coach with the Atlanta Rainbow Trout. "With one of the most dynamic gay, lesbian, and transgendered communities in the

United States, and as the site of the 1996 Olympic Games, we believe Atlanta will prove a compelling destination for aquatic athletes worldwide this summer." And fans, as well.

ART Women's Development Chair Leslie Johnson is part of an outreach team to encourage more women to compete in Atlanta. "No more than 150 women swimmers ever have competed in an IGLA Championships event," Johnson said. "Our 1999 objective is to register at least 250 women competitors, or 25 percent of the total number of athletes."

"Atlanta is a compelling destination for IGLA swimmers worldwide, and we look forward to record registration for the 1999 championships," said IGLA Atlantic Co-chair Phillip Collins, of Out To Swim London, UK. Organizers for IGLA '99 want to be sure all Masters competitors know they are welcome at the Atlanta championships.

"The greater number of competitors participating in IGLA '99, the better an event it will be," said IGLA Pacific Co-chair Kevin Brauer of SQUID Denver, Colorado. "Most IGLA teams are affiliated with a Masters swim team organization, such as United States Masters Swimming, Inc., and we are open to all Masters competitors."

Swimmers will compete at the Georgia Tech Aquatic Center pool in two 25-meter courses. Divers vie in the adjacent diving well. More than 2,000 spectators can observe the competition comfortably (and they won't be an hour away from the hotel, like at some other sports events).

Two local charities have been selected by Atlanta Rainbow Trout as beneficiaries of the IGLA '99 event: Youth Pride and the Atlanta Lesbian Cancer Initiative (ALCI). Youth Pride serves as a haven and

positive influence organization for teenagers who are just coming out.

ALCI was established by several local women to provide peer support for breast cancer victims. Atlanta Rainbow Trout is pleased to donate 10 percent of its share of championships proceeds to these two outstanding community organizations.

Kick straight butts

Rick Windes, records keeper for IGLA events, has been a competitive swimmer, and openly gay at it, since Gay Games I. He officiates events, and has been one of the swimming community's longest HIV survivors. He's also been out in the general swimming community, as he said, "making sure Masters Swimming is aware of us."

Windes is looking forward to Atlanta, as are many Bay Area swimmers, whose recent qualifying efforts set new records and All-American honors.

Like many swimmers, Windes still smarting from the experience of Gay Games and looks forward to a contrasting professionally-run event, where records are accurate and facilities are up to par with these superior athletes' needs.

Most lesbian and gay Masters swimmers regularly compete, and win, at mixed Masters swim events. Outstanding Bay Area individuals include SAC Heat Wave's Andrew Brenan, David Ugarkovich, and Julius Young; SFRP Masters/Tsunami's Bart McDermott and Lisa Congdon; Team Berkeley's Johan Steiner, Linda Buchanan, and Melon Dash.

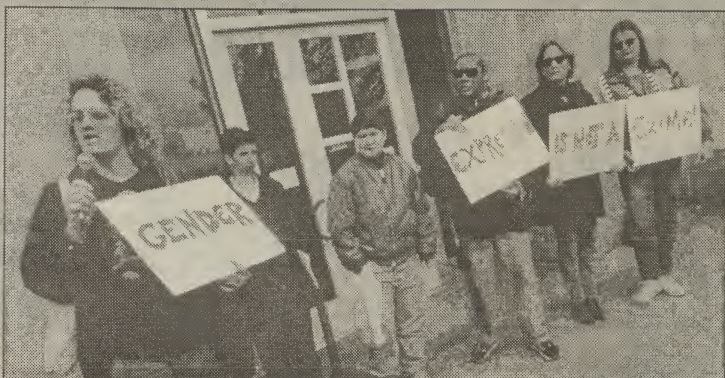
All-American individual swimmers include prominent Bay Area swimmers including The Olympic Club's Daniel Veatch and USF Masters' Duke Dahlin, Richard Garrett, and Shawn Jones. Among those ranked All-American in the relay division are Team Berkeley's Linda Buchanan, Melon, Michael Morford, Ralph Elder, and Steve Czekala.

Said Windes, "I love to swim a great race and kick a few straight butts. Given the male psyche, some of those people don't take that well, but it makes a point. We've found a way to have fun, and make a point."

Windes noted that of the 400 or so USMS-registered swimmers participating in Gay Games V, 38

next page ►

Hall of injustice



Transgendered people, picketed outside the S.F. Hall of Justice on April 7, alleging mistreatment at the hands of police and Sheriff's deputies. Nadia Cabezas (left) complained of illegal strip searches, the housing of transgendered people along with the general jail population, and other abuses, and called for a stop to such practices.

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

were ranked in the Top 10 and five achieved All-American ranking; 165 swimmers swam on relays that ranked in the Top 10, with 29 participating on All-American relays. In addition, two other individual and three relay swimmers achieved Top 10 times outside of Gay Games V.

Against the tide of hate

Richard Garret recently earned honors as a PMS Age Group Swimmer of the Year for 1998 for the men's 45-49 category. An age group swimmer of the year earns

honors based strictly on performance in the three pool courses (SCY, LCM, & SCM) and open water season.

The San Francisco Recreation and Park Tsunami desires to nominate two of its members, Tod Hill and Neil Hart, for 1998 PMS Achievement Awards. The awards will be made at the Pacific Masters Short Course (Yards) Championships this weekend April 16-18, at the San Jose State Aquatic Facility.

Hill has been a member of the SFRP Tsunami since 1989; while Neil was a founding member of the club in 1986. Hill organized an anti-violence swimming fundraiser-Swim Against Hate-that collect-

ed (as the last pledges have come in) \$15,000, of which \$4,000 came from pledges fulfilled by Hart.

Both local and regional anti-violence organizations benefited from the SFRP Tsunami's aggregate swim of 1,109 miles from San Francisco to Laramie, Wyoming, where Matthew Shepard was beaten and left to die. ▼

Visit the USMS website <http://www.swimgold.org/tt/age/index.htm>, or navigate there through www.usms.org.

More information about IGLA '99, including registration forms and a full schedule of events can be found at www.igla99.org. Additional detail on the Atlanta Rainbow Trout can be obtained at www.mindspring.com/~atltrout, and IGLA's website address is www.igla.org. or by calling the Troutline: (404) 286-6131.

Thursday benefit

Next Thursday's first benefit for Destination Foundation promises to be a fun affair and tickets start at \$25 per person. They must be purchased in advance and will not be sold at the door. Proceeds from the reception will be used to help make grants. The event will feature live entertainment; cocktail cuisine from Backflip; a raffle for two roundtrip tickets on American Airlines to any destination in the continental U.S., Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, or the Bahamas; and a silent auction of designer furniture, an Emporio Armani shopping spree, artwork, and more. ▼

For information about Destination Foundation, call (415) 474-2554. The benefit takes place from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at the Knoll Showroom, 317 Montgomery Street, between California and Pine. For tickets, call (415) 864-8523.

Dimensions

◀ page 5

13 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., which will look at the need for youth-specific information about piercing, tattooing, and branding as body modification continues to grow in popularity among young people. The workshop will cover topics such as how to pick a piercing or tattoo studio, proper health techniques, HIV and hepatitis infection, and terminology.

• "Funky Sex: Toys and kink" on May 27 from 6 to 7:30 p.m., at which speakers from Good Vibrations will respond to participants' questions about S/M, sex toys, spanking, water sports,

voyeurism, and other aspects of kink, with an emphasis on how to stay safe and healthy. This workshop is offered because of the recognition that many young people are already sexually active, and that all young people have questions that are not answered in ninth grade health classes. Topics will be introduced in a professional way, allowing young people to ask questions and discuss alternative sex practices. ▼

The Castro-Mission Health Center is located at 3850 17th Street. To make an appointment for the Dimensions Clinic, call (415) 487-7589.

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.20230038
The following person(s) are doing business as, Wren Miller Co. 170 Duboce Avenue. #11 San Francisco, CA. 94103-1131. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Wren H. Miller. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 3/22/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/22/99. MAR. 25, APR. 1, 8, 15 1999.

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229216
The following person(s) are doing business as, Kennedy's Irish Pub Curry House. 1040 Columbus Avenue San Francisco, CA. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Brahma B. Swami. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 02/22/99. APR. 8, 15, 22, 29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230418
The following person(s) are doing business as, Tri Star Transport. 10 Carolina Street, San Francisco, CA. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Joseph L. Weatherman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/31/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 04/01/99. APR. 8, 15, 22, 29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230224
The following person(s) are doing business as, Arts 'N' Graphs. 401 Parker Avenue #3, San Francisco, CA. 94118. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Luis E. Gutierrez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/26/99. APR. 8, 15, 22, 29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230346
The following person(s) are doing business as, San Francisco Bayside Travelodge. 2011 Bayshore Blvd., San Francisco, CA. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Norman F. Eichelmann. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/31/99. APR. 8, 15, 22, 29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229995
The following person(s) are doing business as, E. Central. 2358 Market Street San Francisco, CA. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed David M. Bach. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/19/99. APR. 8, 15, 22, 29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229999
The following person(s) are doing business as, Integrated Healing Resources. 1380 South Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gregory Okulove. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/19/99. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/19/99. APR. 1, 8, 15, 22 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 229932
The following person(s) are doing business as, Ashbury Images. 1625 Bush Street Suite #1 San Francisco, CA. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Randy Newcomb. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/10/95. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/17/99. APR. 8, 15, 22, 29 1999

STATEMENT FILE NO. 230255
The following person(s) are doing business as, Costello's Tree Service. 450 Taraval St. Suite 292 San Francisco, CA. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sean McLaird. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on 03/29/99. APR. 15, 22, 29, MAY 6, 1999

City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services Request for Proposals #163

The City and County of San Francisco Department of Human Services (SFDHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from individuals and organizations interested in contracting to provide technical assistance and quality assurance for parenting education.

The contract will provide \$56,600 over the period from 7/1/99 to 6/30/01. This contract may be renewed depending on performance of contractor.

An RFP packet may be picked up at SFDHS, 170 Otis, 8th Floor beginning Tuesday, April 13, 1999. Office hours are from 8 AM to 5 PM.

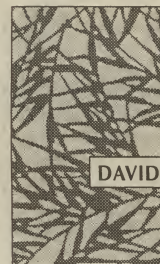
The Respondents' Conference will be held on Wednesday, April 28, 1999 at 10:00 AM at 170 Otis, 6th Floor Conference Room, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang at (415) 557-5181.

Due date for responses is Thursday, May 13, 1999 at 5:00 PM.

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NOTICESNOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMIN-
ISTER ESTATE. CASE NO:
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To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who are otherwise interested in the will or estate, or both, of: Florence P. Chavis aka Florence Phylliss Chavis. A petition for probate has been filed by Ahmad A. Rasheed, in the Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco. The petition for probate requests that Ahmad A. Rasheed, be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent. The petition requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority. A hearing on the petition will be held on: April 28, 1999, Time: 9am Dept: #13, Room #204. If you object to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections of file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney. If you are a creditor or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above. You may examine the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a Request for Special Notice (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A Request for Special Notice form is available from the court clerk. Attorney for petitioner J. W. Macneil, Esq. Law Office of Justin W. Macneil, P. O. Box 26024 San Francisco, Ca. 94126-6024 (415) 434-3490 APR. 8, 15, 22, 1999

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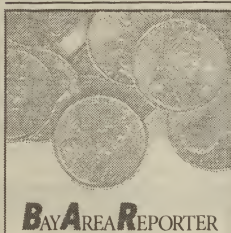
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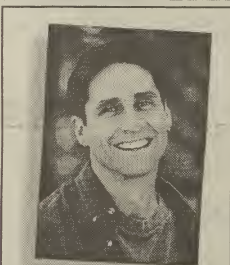
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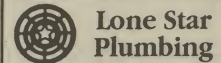
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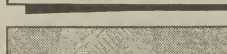


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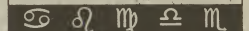
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Please read this information before you start taking COMBIVIR (pronounced KOM-bi-veer). Staying informed will help you to work more closely with your doctor and healthcare team to determine what is best for you. Remember, this information does not take the place of careful discussion with your healthcare provider. You should remain under a doctor's care when using COMBIVIR and should not change or stop treatment without first talking with your healthcare provider.

What is COMBIVIR?

COMBIVIR is the brand name of a tablet that combines EPIVIR® Tablets (lamivudine tablets) [3TC®] and RETROVIR® (zidovudine) Tablets [AZT], two drugs which are used to treat HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). HIV is the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

How does COMBIVIR work?

COMBIVIR is a combination of lamivudine (la-MIV-u-deen) and zidovudine (zi-DOHV-u-deen), two medicines (nucleoside analogues) that slow down the replication of the HIV virus. This can reduce the virus' ability to infect new cells. It may help lower the amount of HIV in your body (called "viral load") and raise your CD4 (T) cell count. Lamivudine plus zidovudine when used together can have stronger (synergistic) effects against the virus. COMBIVIR is a convenient way of taking lamivudine and zidovudine. COMBIVIR should usually be taken with other anti-HIV therapy.

Will COMBIVIR work the same as EPIVIR and RETROVIR taken together?

Yes, taking one COMBIVIR Tablet twice a day is the same as taking one EPIVIR 150 mg Tablet twice a day and either two RETROVIR 100 mg Capsules three times a day or one RETROVIR 300 mg Tablet twice a day.

How should I take COMBIVIR?

Take COMBIVIR as your doctor prescribes it. The recommended dose is one COMBIVIR Tablet orally two times a day, with or without food. To help make sure you will benefit from COMBIVIR, you must not skip doses or take "drug holidays."

What should I do if I miss a dose of COMBIVIR?

If you miss a dose by more than 4 hours, wait and then take the next dose at the regularly scheduled time. However, if you miss a dose by less than 4 hours, take your missed dose immediately. Then take your next dose at the regularly scheduled time. Do not take more or less than your prescribed dose of COMBIVIR at any one time.

Does COMBIVIR cure HIV infection or AIDS?

No, there is not a cure for HIV infection or AIDS. People taking COMBIVIR may still develop infections or other illnesses associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important to remain under the care of a healthcare provider. Use of lamivudine plus zidovudine has been shown to help patients with HIV infection stay healthy and live longer.

Does COMBIVIR reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

No, COMBIVIR, as well as other HIV medications, has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Who should not take COMBIVIR?

You should not take COMBIVIR if you have had a serious allergic reaction to either lamivudine or zidovudine.

Do not take COMBIVIR at the same time as EPIVIR or RETROVIR because they also contain lamivudine and zidovudine.

Individual dosing with EPIVIR plus RETROVIR, rather than COMBIVIR, should be considered for:

- A child under 12 years of age.
- A patient who weighs less than 110 pounds.
- Anyone who requires dosage adjustments due to drug side effects or poor kidney function.

What medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my healthcare provider?

Talk to your healthcare provider if:

- You are pregnant or if you become pregnant while taking COMBIVIR® (lamivudine 150 mg/zidovudine 300 mg) Tablets. Ask your doctor about enrolling you in the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry: 1-800-258-4263.
- You are breastfeeding. Mothers infected with HIV should not breastfeed their infants because HIV is present in breast milk.

Also talk to your doctor about:

- Problems with your blood counts.
- Problems with your muscles.
- Problems with your kidneys.
- Problems with your liver, especially if you have mild or moderate liver disease, such as hepatitis.

Can COMBIVIR be taken with other medications?

Yes, COMBIVIR can be taken with most medications, including most anti-HIV drugs. Be sure to tell your healthcare provider about all medications, over-the-counter or prescription, that you are taking.

What are the possible side effects of COMBIVIR?

Do not rely on this summary alone for information about side effects. Your healthcare provider can discuss with you a more complete list of side effects that may be relevant to you.

The safety of COMBIVIR is not expected to be different from the safety of EPIVIR and RETROVIR given separately.

In clinical studies of lamivudine plus zidovudine, side effects occurring in 5% or more of patients included: muscle and joint pain, headache, nausea, weakness and fatigue, nasal symptoms, cough, diarrhea, nausea and vomiting, neuropathy, trouble sleeping, fever or chills, loss of appetite, dizziness, abdominal pain or cramps, depression, skin rashes, and indigestion.

It's important to know that serious side effects can occur with COMBIVIR, such as a decrease in red and white blood cells and muscle damage. A buildup of lactic acid and an enlarged liver, including fatal cases, have been reported rarely with some HIV drugs, including nucleoside analogues.

For HIV-infected individuals, periodic blood tests are recommended. If certain changes occur in your laboratory results while you are taking COMBIVIR, particularly if you become anemic or if your white blood cell count falls too low, your medication may need to be adjusted; your doctor may prescribe EPIVIR plus RETROVIR separately in place of COMBIVIR.

Tell your doctor promptly about any side effects or other unusual symptoms you may experience.

Other Information

This medication is prescribed for a particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep COMBIVIR and all medicines out of the reach of children.

Like most prescription drugs, lamivudine and zidovudine were required to be tested on animals before they were allowed for human use. In animal studies with doses much higher than those used in humans, zidovudine was associated with vaginal tumors. Your healthcare provider can tell you more about how drugs are tested on animals and what the results of these tests may mean about safety for you.

How should I store COMBIVIR Tablets?

COMBIVIR Tablets may be stored at room temperature and do not require refrigeration.

This provides a summary of information about COMBIVIR. If you have any questions or concerns about COMBIVIR or HIV, talk to your healthcare provider.



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Jay talking

Karla Jay remembers early days of Gay Lib in 'Tales of the Lavender Menace.'

page 37

Chewing 'Gum'

Karen Hartman's new play at the Magic Theatre.

page 32



Truly 'Long Day's

Journey into Night' (3 hr. 45 min.) at the Geary.

page 31



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 29 • No. 15 • 15 April 1999

Chinese take-out

by Andrew Huang

A NEW AMERICAN MYTH, THEATREWORKS' *THE JOY LUCK CLUB*

Coming soon to a theater near you: Treachery! Polygamy! Long-buried secrets unraveled! Grandiose love and wretched death! War and violence! A mother's agonized decision to abandon her children! Gasp! (You want to see it now, right?) Nope, I'm not talking about a vendetta-filled Greek tragedy or a blood-shedding Shakespearean play. Nor am I alluding to the series finale of *Melrose Place*. I'm touting the stage play of *The Joy Luck Club* being mounted by TheatreWorks in Mountain View through May 2.

Currently in its third incarnation (Amy Tan's novel was published in 1989, and the movie came out in '95), this enduring story, a tale of struggle and survival that interweaves the present of four American-born daughters with the pasts of their Chinese-born mothers, apparently has a hold on the American imagination. Describing it as "exotic and dramatic," the press release easily lays bare the enormous appeal of the story: Baroque passion. Operatic plotline. Epic landscape torn by warfare. Costume with embroidery. Page-turning entertainment mixed with an uplifting theme is the recipe for success on a blockbuster scale.

The urge to bring the story of this best-selling novel to the stage or film was apparently immediate. The Chinese language ver-

page 36 ►



Kerry Lee, Dewi Yee, Lisa Takata, and Lisa Lu in *The Joy Luck Club*

David Allen

Baltimore triangle

BEN NEIHART'S SCANDALOUS *BURNING GIRL*

by Robert Julian



Michael Jan Koye

Ben Neihart's second novel, *Burning Girl* (Weisbach Morrow, \$24), starts out on Baltimore's Charles Street, and then heads straight into the countryside for its denouement. Drew Burke is a Johns Hopkins student who hangs with wealthy young Bahar Richards and her hunky apprentice architect brother, Jake. Drew's friends warn that the Richards siblings are not nice people, but for a poor kid from Louisiana, wealthy, attractive young friends who always pick up the tab are hard to resist. But why have they singled out shy Drew as the object of their affections? This mystery doesn't get solved until the end of the book.

Author Neihart quickly draws the reader into Drew's internal life, and the *laissez-faire* days of college. Of course, Drew must work two jobs to stay in school, but his outings with Bahar or Jake take the edge off Drew's perpetual economic crisis. Neihart quickly establishes Drew's irrational bond with his two upper-class chums and reveals the *sexy menage a trois* at the center of their relationship. It all seems to work well for everyone. Bahar willingly surrenders Drew's romantic attentions to her brother Jake, and is content to be "girlfriends" with Drew. But the passion between the men has undercurrents of neuroses and violence.

The first half of *Burning Girl* moves quickly and compellingly, navigating its way through a twentysomething landscape of recreational

drugs, casual sex, and expressions like "get with you" and the ubiquitous "dude." The prose is spare and tight, and the author establishes an effectively mysterious ambience. But after the midpoint of the novel, the story descends into a convoluted murder mystery whose pacing is ponderous compared to what precedes it. The last half of the book plays like a Kevin Williamson script (*Scream*, *Dawson's Creek*) that got out of control and ended up going way over the top. Once the final denouement is reached, the reader has been dragged in and out of the Richards' country estate so often, on so many truncated forays, that it's hard to care what happens.

The conclusion of the story is interwoven with an appearance by Jake and Bahar's mother on *Larry King Live*. This plot device, presented without irony, hits the wall of absurdity when one of the characters puts a bullet through his head while speaking to the talk show host on the telephone, making him both dead and live with Larry King. More restraint, and a restructured conclusion, could have made Ben Neihart's interesting *Burning Girl* into something truly exceptional. ▼

Author Ben Neihart appears on Sunday, April 18, at 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro St., to read from *Burning Girl*.

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by Roberto Friedman and Gianni Versace

Doomed gay serial killer **Andrew Cunanan** has had something of a literary afterlife this spring, with the publication of two big books all about his sordid career. After the appearance of clueless, homophobic *Vanity Fair* reporter **Maureen Orth's** abomination, *Vulgar Favors* (Delacorte), comes an antidote of sorts in brilliant gay author **Gary Indiana's** shimmering account, *Three Month Fever* (HarperCollins). Though Indiana



Author Gary Indiana

tells "The Andrew Cunanan Story" in novelized form, his rendition feels truer to what probably went on in the horrible young sociopath's mind than Orth's supposedly "objective" outsider opus.

Our reviewer panned *Vulgar* sufficiently last week. Just a small anecdote from the Orth horror to show how out of her depth she is: While on the story in South Beach, she hits the Boardwalk, "the hustler bar where witnesses had seen Andrew. When one of the male go-go dancers rubbed himself up against me so that I could feel his protrusion — the usual manner of asking for a tip to be put in the top of his briefs — I had no idea what he was doing and recoiled." The thought of this gawky, judgmental straight woman treating herself to a night at the Boardwalk under some misguided notion of journalistic duty (she was as likely to get any inside dish there as she was likely to get laid) is enough to capture the tone of the whole sorry tome.

Deliciously, Indiana's book introduces a character who could well be a stand-in for Orth, a reporter on the trail ("a face-lifted matron made up like an Argentinean drag queen the day after Carnival") who is proceeding, like Orth, under the exact wrong hypothesis, namely that Cunanan was on a crystal meth binge. As Indiana pithily observes, you can pretty much rule out the crystal theory by a cursory perusal of Andrew's AmEx charges, full of extravagant restaurant meals, and by many eyewitness reports that he was ballooning up in weight. Tweakers are not prone to overeating.

Indiana also puts to rest the theory that Cunanan was obsessed

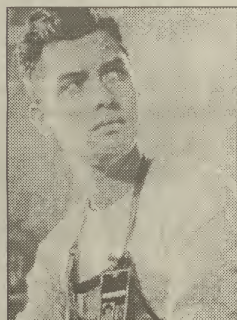
almost since birth with his victim, *shmata* designer **Gianni Versace**. "There are people so smitten with celebrity that they're driven to kill it, journalists conspicuous among them," he writes, "but in my version of the story Andrew got the same little thrill from meeting a big shot that a waitress gets from serving a sandwich to **Milton Berle**. As **Marilyn Monroe** is supposed to have said, *They say Milton Berle has the biggest one in Hollywood, but I mean, who cares?*"

Gary Indiana reads from *Three Month Fever* on Tuesday, April 20, 7:30 p.m. at A Different Light, 489 Castro St. If you buy only one serial killer book this year, this is the one to seize upon.

Czech hook

At the Inside Music talk before last week's opening concert of the San Francisco Symphony led by Czech conductor **Jiri Belohlávek**, lecturer **Michael Beckerman** advised that since certain crucial diatritical marks were left off the title of the **Bedrich Smetana** piece on the program, the spelling of *Prodaná*

nevesta, ordinarily translated as *The Bartered Bride*, would suggest that the opera was named *The Bought-and-Sold Hooker*. We'd say more careful copy editing is in order for the Symphony payroll — we had that very job back in a distant time called the '80s — but we're rather too busy nowadays to see to the task ourselves.



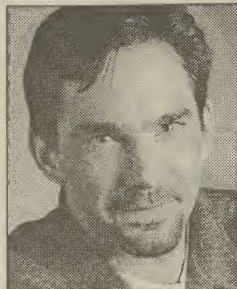
Jude Law in eXistenZ

Hey, Jude

To answer all those clamoring for a photo of **Jude Law** spread-eagled and taking it up the bio-port after last week's item on **David Cronenberg's eXistenZ**, sorry we can't supply it, you'll have to go to the black market. We can, however, run this photo of Mr. Law looking butch in a work smock in the same upcoming flick, and this will just have to do for now.

Artsy/craftsy

Our guide in our tour around the spiffy new Montgomery cam-



CCAC's Lawrence Rinder

pus of the California College of Arts and Crafts was CCAC Institute director **Lawrence Rinder** himself, and the real news here, boys, is that the personable and knowledgeable Rinder is an eligible bachelor, and apparently he's currently available. Acquaintance with art history helpful but not required!

The new SF campus for CCAC at 1111 8th St. (at the foot of Potrero Hill) is worth making a play for, too. A former Greyhound bus

repair facility designed by **Skidmore, Owings and Merrill** makes for pretty breathtaking studio/classroom space, lots of northern light, Bauhaus exterior, and the luxury of pure space. Who knew bus transmissions and art were so alike! Three exhibitions — an interactive (in the pre-virtual sense of the term) installation by hot French artist **Fabrice Hybert**; *Big Soft Orange*, on radical Dutch urban design; and *Spaced Out, Late 1990s Works from the Collection of Vicki and Kent Logan* — inaugurate the new Logan Galleries, also new and nifty, in conjunction with the Grand Opening Celebration of the new campus on Friday, April 16, 8 p.m.-1 a.m. Call 703-9520 to attend the opening, or to tour the galleries, free and open to the public.

Pleasure repressor

Off the Weird News wire: Prominent right-wing Christian conservative psychologist **Paul Cameron** told *Rolling Stone* magazine in a March interview that he feared gay sex would supplant heterosexual sex unless a vigilant society repressed it.


"Marital sex tends toward the boring," Cameron said, revealingly. "Generally, it doesn't deliver the kind of sheer sexual pleasure that homosexual sex does." (We'd second that!) If all one seeks is an orgasm, he said, "the evidence is that men do a better job on men, and women on women."

"[H]omosexuality," said this apparently self-repressed homosexual, "seems too powerful to resist." Oh do give in to it, Pauly, and just say yes! On second thought, please do stay away. ▼

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THEATRE

Family demons

ACT's 'Long Day's Journey into Night'

by Richard Dodds

What family doesn't have its ups and downs? Over the course of one day — and three hours and 45 minutes of stage time — the members of the Tyrone family alternately attack, confess, confront, and reconcile. "I love you more than hate you," says Jamie Tyrone to his younger brother after a particularly rancorous exchange. It's a sentiment equally shared by all the family members in Eugene O'Neill's *Long Day's Journey into Night*, now on view in a generally satisfying production at ACT.

So if love does win in the end, it's only by a TKO, but still it's what gives these characters — barely disguised stand-ins for O'Neill's own tortured family — the will to carry on. And it is what provides balm to audiences who are invited into this summer cottage from hell.

O'Neill was near the end of his life when he wrote *Long Day's Journey*, and if it brought catharsis, the price was anguish. His widow, Carlotta, recalled how O'Neill would emerge from his study gaunt and red-eyed after each session at the typewriter. "He looked 10 years older than when he went in the morning," she wrote several years after his death in 1953.

Whatever he may have learned came too late to prevent the thrice-married O'Neill to avoid repeating the destructive family patterns. His oldest son committed suicide, and O'Neill eventually disowned his second son as well as his only daughter. His own father did better than that.

In *Long Day's Journey*, O'Neill is clearly targeting his father,

mother, and brother for his enduring miseries, but what makes the play more than a blame game is his ability to empathize with their demons as well as his own. This critical component is brought to earnest life in director Laird Williamson's production that lets each revelatory moment carefully develop. The title tells you it's going to be a long play, but it wasn't until the final 40 minutes or so that this production began to feel long, a loosening of focus being one possible culprit.

It is in these moments that the clash between older brother Jamie and younger brother Edmund (the character O'Neill modeled on himself) unfolds in a besotted haze. While Jason Butler Harner, as the sickly Edmund, creates a plausible and intriguing character throughout the evening, Marco Barricelli seems miscast as the hard-living, hard-drinking son of Ireland, and the pivotal final confrontation lacks the honest intensity of other battles fought on this day.

As the tottering patriarch James Tyrone, once a promising actor who sold out for easy money, Josef Sommer is quite fine as he walks the fine line between villain and victim. Pamela Payton-Wright, as his wife who blurs her unhappiness in a morphine haze, creates numerous compelling moments, elicits a number of hearty laughs (a couple perhaps unwelcome), but pushes too hard at key high-emotion junctures. A tremulous similarity to Katharine Hepburn, who played Mary Tyrone on the screen, can also be a bit of a distraction.

Long Day's Journey into Night is the kind of play that doesn't evaporate after the final bow. This is definitely not your family, but any-

one who has a parent, child, spouse, or sibling should recognize the powerful and often painful dynamics that exist in even the sunniest of families. If there is a button, it can be hard not to push it even after the person who installed it is long gone. ▼

Long Day's Journey into Night will run at ACT through May 2 with special early curtains at 7:30 p.m. evenings and 1:30 p.m. at matinees. Tickets are \$11-\$55. Call 749-2228.



Jason Butler Harner and Marco Barricelli in *Long Day's Journey into Night*

Room service

'The Nanjing Race' at NCT

by Richard Dodds

The mood at New Conservatory Theatre is unusually serious these days. And far afield from the usual gay haunts that locate much of the theater's fare. In *The Nanjing Race*, we are taken to a provincial capitol in China where sexual politics are but one component in a triangular culture clash that spans oceans, decades, and dreams.

It's a very specific world that playwright Reggie Cheong-Leen has created, a world fueled by situations unlikely to have much first-hand relevance to most members of the audience. But when specifics resonate with emotional honesty, as they often do here, they spread out onto a much wider canvas.

The catalyst for the dramatic clashes of *The Nanjing Race* arrives in the form of an American businessman, chosen by his company for this buying trip in the misguided notion that his half-Japanese background will be an asset. But not only are the Japanese viewed with suspicion and contempt in China, and especially in Nanjing, but this fully assimilated businessman actively resents anything that reminds him of his own Asian heritage.

He is by all definitions the Ugly American, and he treats an overeager hotel valet, known as a floor boy, with contempt. But his gaydar begins to ping when another floor boy with delicate features and a retiring manner arrives at his door, and East soon meets West in the hotel bed.

If the playwright brings little depth to the selfish, barking American, the floor boys are more fully revealed thanks to an upstairs-downstairs device. We learn that the friendly eagerness of the first floor boy is an act, that he despises his dead-end job and the people he must serve, and his only goal is to find a sponsor who will help him escape to the promised land known as America. We also find out that the subservience of the other floor boy is disguising an enduring hatred for the Japanese, who brutalized his family in Nanjing in the early days of World War II, but who can't resist the rare romantic release that the businessman briefly provides.

Cheong-Leen, a native of Hong Kong who became a US citizen in the '80s, is better at capturing his Chinese characters than his Japanese-American creation, a situation mirrored in director Arturo Catricala's polished production.

But it's also the case that



Michael Guillen and Terrence Young in *The Nanjing Race*

Robert Wu, as the desperately conniving floor boy, provides such a sharply observed performance in both his upstairs and downstairs personas that the character is bound to appear more true to life. Terrence Young, as the gay floor boy, projects an appealing air, but has trouble sustaining the playwright's more blurry bouts with poetic narration. As the businessman, Michael Guillen eschews subtlety in the broadly written role, adding some evil-queen trapings to an already ugly American.

The Nanjing Race stirs up a lot of issues, from assimilation to xenophobia, and that it does so with a gay subtext adds yet another layer. NCT deserves credit for providing a forum for this intriguing look into distant world, but one that doesn't seem so foreign by the final curtain. ▼

The Nanjing Race will run through May 8 at the New Conservatory Theatre. Tickets are \$16 and \$20. Call 861-8972.

Lab baby

'Immaculate Misconception'

by Richard Dodds

The revolutions in baby-making in the past decades have provided endless dramatic possibilities, from soap-opera folderol to serious philosophical explorations to docudrama dissertations. Now Carl Djerassi, one of the early reproductive revolutionaries, has created a play that incorporates a bit from each category.

In *An Immaculate Misconception* at the new Eureka Theatre, the scientist-turned-author is best at the docudrama, loses focus in the philosophical explorations, and undermines his better moments with folderol. That Djerassi should excel with the science fact is not surprising, nor are the sometimes clumsy dramatic constructions of this first play. What is disappointing is the implausible and even borderline-ridiculous story Djerassi has concocted from the wealth of intriguing possibilities.

It was nearly 50 years ago that Djerassi discovered the compounds that led to the development of the birth-control pill. It was a discovery that made him a rich man, and has helped underwrite a late-blooming career as a novelist and now as a playwright. But the pill, which is all about sex



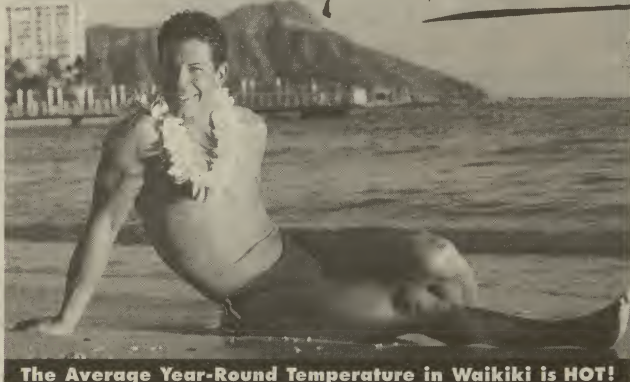
Peter Vilkin and Denise Balthrop Cassidy in *An Immaculate Misconception*

without pregnancy, is not the subject of *An Immaculate Misconception*. Rather, Djerassi is exploring the ramifications of pregnancy without sex.

The playwright creates the fictional discovery for an actual process in which a single sperm is injected into a human egg before being returned to womb. Known as ICSI, pronounced ICK-see, and short for intracytoplasmic sperm injection, its main beneficiary has

next page ►

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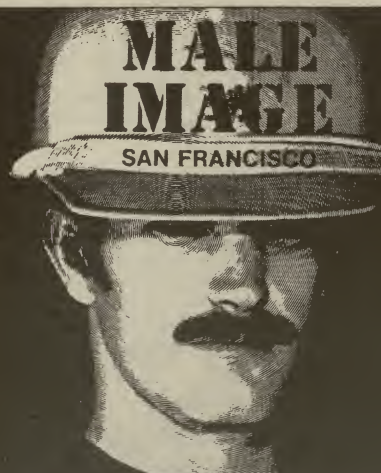
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Gumming up the works

by Deborah Peifer

There's something intriguing in the notion of a play about gum, especially when the subject is forbidden desire, not an homage to William (double your pleasure) Wrigley. A call to *Gum* playwright Karen Hartman seemed in order, to find out the inspiration for the play, which opens April 21 at the Magic Theatre.

"The play started with an article in *The New York Times* about a ban on chewing gum," Hartman said. "You can find the article easily, just do a search for Egypt and gum — it's the only article. It seems that young women in a small town in Egypt were rumored to be having sex with young men, sometimes several young men, in cars. The townspeople couldn't imagine what had caused them to break with their virtuous upbringing, but they decided it must have been something in chewing gum, especially foreign chewing gum."

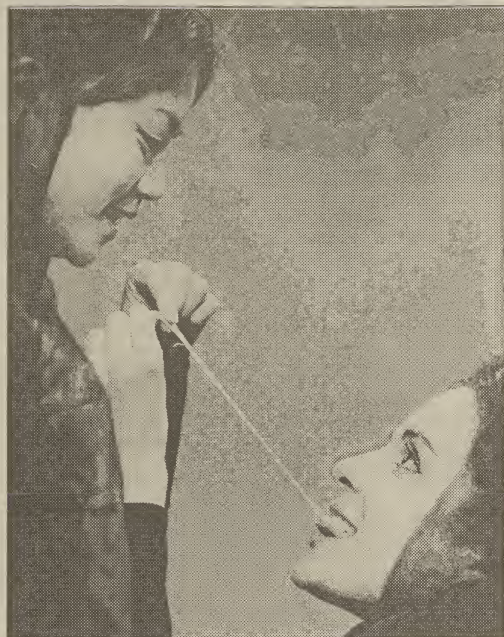
After we both stopped laughing, Hartman continued, "That got me thinking about what happens to desire when it is forbidden." *Gum* takes place in an unnamed country where women wear veils and are to be protected from sinful temptations. Two sisters discover the delicious joys of proscribed behavior.

"Jean [Randich, *Gum*'s director] says the play is funny, sexy, shocking, and sad, and that everything happens in that order. I hope the audience is entranced by these girls and captivated by their struggles. All of us try to contain places of pleasure, and it just doesn't work."

As for this premiere production, Hartman is "excited about this group of people. Jean's the best director there is, and the cast is extraordinary. It's pretty rare for a playwright to wind up in a situation where the energy and commitment of the cast and crew matches or surpasses the energy and commitment of the writer."

Hartman's words of praise for director Randich convinced me that I needed to speak with her as well. Her enthusiasm for the play was palpable. "I think the play examines logically what happens in a society that tells women it's best not to know all of who you are, that it's better to be broken than to be whole," Randich said. "The gum in the play represents the passage to forbidden knowledge. In a climate where so much that is natural is forbidden, secrets are irresistible. If you try to repress who you are, you will come out. What makes the play universal and compelling to both men and women, what's fascinating about it, is that in a world where things are forbidden to be felt or even to be known, this play shows a way to freedom."

If a country in which women must be veiled, are under virtual house arrest unless in the company of a male relative, are forbidden to learn, to speak, to desire, sounds suspiciously like the horrors being perpetrated against the women of Afghanistan under the Taliban, consider focusing the rage you're feeling on your wallet, and send a donation to the Feminist Majority Foundation's Campaign to Stop Gender Apartheid, 8105 W. 3rd Street, LA CA 90048.

Esperanza Catubig and Laura Flanagan in *Gum*

And don't miss *Gum* at the Magic Theatre, Fort Mason, Building D, April 21-May 23; call 441-8822 for information.

Happy April 15

Today is the perfect day to start building up those all-important charitable donations for next year's taxes. Here's a few suggestions that will enhance your theatregoing experience, and do a bit of good for your soul as well.

One of the joys of a career in

the theatre is the opportunity to work very hard for little pay and no benefits. When an actor, technician or director is hit with catastrophic illness, limited resources just add to the anxiety. Enter the Mary Mason Memorial Lemonade Fund, a project of Theatre Bay Area, which offers cash grants to theatre workers in need, money that can make a real difference to those struggling with a life-threatening malady. If you've seen a play that moved you or entertained you, give a thought to the people who made it possible, and send a check payable to The Lemonade

page 39 ►

Misconception

◀ previous page

been men who had been declared functionally sterile. That's what happens in *An Immaculate Misconception*, though in this case, the father is an unwitting contributor to the cause.

Just as the fictional Dr. Melanie Laidlaw is ready to switch from hamsters to humans in her pioneering ICSI research, she begins to hear her own biological clock ticking away. Rather than deal with the anonymity of a sperm bank, she decides to do the first human injection on one of her own eggs with sperm she has secretly harvested from a used condom after casual sex with a particularly agreeable partner. Since he's married and lives in Israel, he's not exactly LTR material, but the fact that he's presumably infertile due to a radiation accident doesn't keep him from becoming a daddy thanks to ICSI and his safe-sex practices.

Or is he really the daddy? In one of the more egregious plot twists, Dr. Laidlaw's research partner masturbates during a lunch break, and substitutes his sperm in one batch to be injected into Dr. Laidlaw's eggs. This creates a nutty detour in an issue play that should be developing some of the many more pertinent questions that reproductive science continues to raise.

As Melanie Laidlaw, Denise Balthrop Cassidy works hard to punch up the streams of technical

information she must impart, though her romantic off-work scenes have a more natural flair. Peter Vilkin has an assured, quiet intensity as the Israeli sperm supplier that makes Melanie's choice of genetic paternity at least seem reasonable. Paul Sultzman brings a competency to the role of Dr. Laidlaw's unlikely partner, though Maxine Wyman can't do much to save her role as a sperm-bank director who is on hand mainly as an info-elicitating device. Teenage Zach Kenney, playing the result of the first ICSI process, nicely handles the prologue and epilogue.

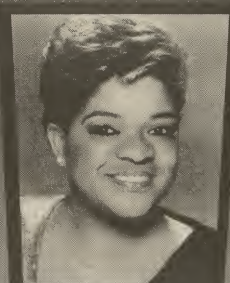
Directed by Edward Hastings, a former artistic director of ACT, the production is seldom boring, but it can become inadvertently risible. One problem is the angst-ridden piano poundings that punctuate each scene change with melodramatic exclamation points. The most fascinating thing about the production is videotape of an actual sperm capture and egg injection that is supposedly taking place before our eyes as the two scientists manipulate their equipment.

In these moments, projected on a large circular screen, there is action, suspense, and more dramatic reality than in just about anything else that happens on the stage. ▼

An Immaculate Misconception will run at the Eureka Theatre through May 2. Tickets are \$20 and \$25. Call 788-7469.

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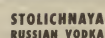
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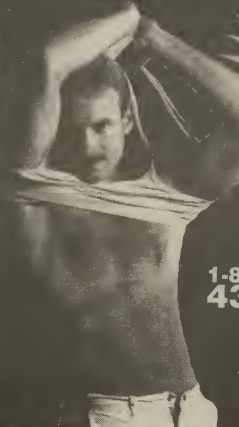
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They're all that way

'Così fan tutte' on CD, at Cowell Theatre

by Timothy Pfaff

The San Francisco Opera Center, the apprentice arm of the "Big House," is devoting its annual Showcase production to Mozart's *Così fan tutte* with two casts performing the work at Fort Mason's Cowell Theatre April 23, 25, 30 and May 2. In recent years the Center has taken a considerable critical bashing for "showcasing" its young singers in operas, and productions, that have proved unflattering to them and were, in any case, questionable learning experiences, for the singers or their audiences. Turning to a Mozart masterpiece augurs to change all that.

Or does it? An opera that has come to be taken seriously only in our lifetimes — during which time it has come to be regarded as one of the high-water marks of the entire repertoire — *Così* isn't kid stuff, even if young singers have distinguished themselves in it. So even if there's no predicting



trous, or an overly cute look at the foibles and predicaments endemic to romantic love. There are several "traditional" recordings I wouldn't want to live without, and the original-instrument crowd has produced a couple of others that have held important places in my collection. But with the arrival of Jacobs, I can't imagine turning to another anytime soon when I want to encounter the opera at its most fully realized.

It's not a star-studded cast. Devotees of historical performance will already be familiar with the Fiordiligi, Véronique

above, any other I've heard.

It's a platitude about *Così* that the orchestra is a seventh character, but I've never before felt the truth of that as forcefully as with Jacobs' Concerto Köln. The players burst onto the scene with the most explosive Overture in my experience, then churn and gabble their way through the rest of the piece at a level of interaction — with each other and with the singers — all but unprecedented for its alertness and responsiveness. The fortepiano (played with mercurial, quicksilver genius by Nicolau de Figueiredo) that accompanies the recitatives proposes a range of sonority many have doubted the instrument capable of, and the horns and winds in "Per pietà" give what sound unmistakably like human reactions to Fiordiligi's lament. Don't take my word for it; it has to be heard to be believed.

This new recording is unlikely to change the view of the piece held by anyone who has thought it through — or been bowled over by a performance, like Peter Sellars', that gets under your skin and to the heart of the matter. But it's equally sure to deepen, measure by measure, anyone's appreciation for this penetrating glimpse of human nature — and miracle of music.

An opera that has come to be taken seriously only in our lifetimes, 'Così' isn't kid stuff.

what will happen at the Cowell, there's something to celebrate in having Mozart's "dramma giocoso" (this is not a farce, but a laughing drama) back among us.

Although it's a piece few opera-goers will feel they have to prepare for, there's a great opportunity to delve deeper into the piece by way of a new Harmonia Mundi recording, conducted by René Jacobs, that marks a great moment in the life of this wonderful opera. The three-CD set even comes with a CD-ROM crammed with useful information about the opera, its creation, its performance and reception history, its characters, a scene-by-scene, number-by-number analysis and a libretto listeners can follow word by word as the recorded performance unfolds. For all that, it's the performance itself that's likely to provide the greatest illuminations.

Così has fared remarkably well on record — better, surely, than it has in the house, when it's too often reduced to a pageant of disembodied vocalism, however lush

Gens, who has done distinguished work with all the French early-music ensembles, and the Dora-bella, Bernard Fink, a Jacobs regular. Graciela Oddone is the Despina, and the men are Werner Güra (Ferrando), Marcel Boone (Guglielmo) and Pietro Spagnoli (Don Alfonso). They're young, fresh voices, alert to the nuances of music, text and drama, and together they're arguably the most integrated *Così* on disc. They live the piece, then sing the spots off it to boot.

The arias are a marvel. My two favorites, Fiordiligi's "Per pietà" and Ferrando's "Un'aura amorosa," hold their own with any on disc — and for me top all of the others with their stunning, text-centered elasticity of rhythm. These are not singers stepping out of the action for a big sing but real-live human beings expressing peak emotions as they unfold, changing by the moment. But it's the recitatives and ensembles, brimming with live interactions of enormous immediacy, that set this performance apart from, and



Local boy makes good

There's a crescendo of interest locally in pianist Stephen Kovacevich's forthcoming recitals, April 18 and 25, for Cal Performances, and not just because he's a local boy (an LA-born Cal grad now living in London). It's probably because his programs, uncommonly serious ones, are devoted entirely to late Beethoven and Schubert. People who want to "listen up" to the late Schubert sonatas before those recitals would be wise to turn to the recent Philips recordings of the three final sonatas by Mitsuko Uchida. Talk about penetrating. They plumb these pieces to their molten cores and would be barely endurable, emotionally, were it not for the ineffable beauty of Uchida's playing.

But there's also a new Hyperion recording of Schubert sonatas, the C Major, D. 613, the A Minor, D. 784, and the valedictory B-flat Major, D. 960 (with which Kovacevich concludes his recitals) by the gay British pianist Stephen Hough that's worth checking out. Hough is one of the day's demons of the keyboard, but he plays these sonatas with a startling clarity, directness and simplicity. It's almost as though he "just" plays them, the naked scores and nothing else. That's absurd, of course. No one just plays them, and these are indeed interpretations of singular daring. All I can say is that they keep calling me back for more, by no means an everyday occurrence. ▼

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Romance languages

SF Ballet's 'Giselle' surprises and charms

by Stephanie von Buchau

The San Francisco Ballet presented five casts in five performances of its elegant new *Giselle* last weekend. Some critics and ballet mavens managed to see all five. I contented myself with the three obvious leading couples and was amazed, as always at the ballet, at how things don't always turn out the way you expect.

Helgi Tomasson's production is deeply felt, keenly intelligent and sensibly capable of adaptation to the talents of various dancers. We are going to be able to enjoy its musicality over and over as different casts shine new light on the story of an innocent country girl seduced and betrayed by a nobleman who is already engaged to someone of his own class. One hopes Tomasson will make adjustments in the over-long first act, which now boasts one-too-many peasant ensembles and a pas de cinq that, despite bravura dancing from Guennadi Nedvigine and Gonzalo Garcia, just lay there inertly at all three performances.

Mikael Melbye's designs also need fine-tuning. Giselle's modest chalet and her lonely grave are placed so far left that even in critic's seats I could not see what was happening. If I'd paid \$100 for my ticket, I'd have been furious. Some of Melbye's costumes served to remind us how much we miss the late Jens-Jacob Worsaae. Did the Duke of Courland (Val Caniparoli or Jim Sohm) have to look like Henry VIII in virulent red? Perhaps Albrecht prefers Giselle because she wears a simple blue-and-white dress, whereas his beautiful fiancé (Sabina Allemann or Sara Sessions) is a fashion victim in crimson skirt, green top and hideous yellow hat.

The worst costume effects, however, are the cloth codpieces worn by the peasant men in Act One. One of the pleasures of ballet is noticing how well-built the boys are; these elongated pieces of dark cloth may be "authentic," but they are physically repulsive. Even worse is Albrecht's Act Two costume. The light gray tights and charcoal tunic are handsome enough, but the white satin slashes on the shoulders, which probably look fine in daylight, under stage lights make the dancer appear like a tall building covered in pigeon droppings.

Otherwise, Melbye has produced resonant stage pictures, especially in Act Two, where Myrtha's imperious gestures cause the claustrophobic forest to pull slowly back, leaving space for the magnificent corps to do its thing. There has been a complaint that the Wilis are too perfect in this production, too ethereal, and not mean enough for the vengeful spirits of girls abandoned by cadish lovers, but their unanimity was so breathtaking that the audience repeatedly burst into spontaneous applause. I'll settle for perfection, at least until the company has a few more performances under its belt and can loosen up a bit.

Sugar shock

Emil de Cou's arrangement and conducting of Adolphe Adam's pretty score (with traditional interpolations and additions of de Cou's own devising)

maintained the San Francisco Ballet's high musical standard. Yes, we miss Denis de Coteau's incandescent way with ballet music, but de Cou is more than a decent conductor; he actually enters into the individual performances. On the first night, I was hardly aware of the orchestra which, with this sugary music, is probably okay (it isn't Tchaikovsky or Stravinsky, after all). At the Saturday matinee I thought de Cou tended to indulge Joanna Berman's sentimental second act adagio to the point where the music fell apart. With Saturday night's cast of Yuan Yuan Tan and Vadim Solomakhin (the most musical of all), the tempos were perfectly judged.

Nobody in the press corps could figure out why the opening night couple, which naturally gets the most play in the paper, turned out to be the weakest of the three. Lucia Lacarra is a splendidly expressive dramatic dancer, but her feet are not strong enough to ar-

ticulate the steps. She also overacted Giselle's mad scene, corrugating her forehead most unattractively. And she had little chemistry with her partner, Yuri Possokhov, though of the three couples I saw, their synchronized dancing was the most flawlessly executed. Possokhov's hunky seducer was violent, obviously just looking for sex (as rough as possible), so that one just didn't care if he was redeemed in the second act.

Tan, fresh from President Clinton's state dinner for the Chinese ambassador, is a seemingly nerveless 21-year-old whose extensions, arm positions, balances and classical reserve may not please those who prefer ballet down-and-dirty, but who brought repeated gasps of pleasure from the audience. The extended pas de deux in Act Two, which looked so strenuous with Lacarra and Possokhov, attained moments of exquisite rap-

page 39 ▶



Yuan Yuan Tan as Giselle and Vadim Solomakhin as Albrecht in *Giselle*

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Joy Luck Club

◀ Arts cover

sion of the play was produced in Shanghai and Hong Kong in '93. The English version of the play was delayed when it was decided to go ahead with the movie first. Penned by playwright Susan Kim, the English stage adaptation premiered in Connecticut and is currently opening in both New York and San Francisco.

In comparison to the book, the movie is more about the story of the mothers. The stage play is something else again. In a recent interview, Margaret Booker, the director who also recently mounted the all-Chinese production of August Wilson's *Fences* in Peking, explains her interpretation for this West Coast version: "The whole stress of the production is on the axis of China, the old country, the motherland. The stage adaptation, in terms of structure, is pretty close to the book. You have the present day, which is 1987. The flashback goes from 1918, the beginning days of the Republic of China, to the '40s. The mothers all leave China, but only one of them leaves because of the politics,



Lisa Lu (foreground) and Lisa Takata in *The Joy Luck Club*

which I think is important. It's not just the daughters discovering their mothers, but the mothers discovering their daughters, too. So you see what cultural values are gained and lost."

Visual feast

Booker promises that the play will be very much a visual experience. "We shot images of the locations in the book to project them onto a screen. We have the fortune cookie company. We're actually doing the wedding. There's a dragon boat, some shadow play on the shore of Lake Tai, and a snatch of Peking Opera, too."

A watershed event that puts its author, Amy Tan, forever on the cultural and literary map, *The Joy Luck Club* did for the Chinese what *The King and I* did for the Thai, *Madam Butterfly* did for the Japanese and *Miss Saigon* did for the Vietnamese, defining their ethnic essence and image in American eyes. The main difference with all those warhorses, however, is that this time the story is penned by a writer belonging to the ethnic origin represented, rather than by a Caucasian writer claiming authority. Although *The Joy Luck Club* fails to escape the three C's that define success of Chinese entertainment in the West — namely Costume, Concubine, and Cultural Revolution (think *Life and Death in Shanghai*, *Raise the Red Lantern* and *Farewell My Concubine*) — it does manage to humanize, if not break, some Asian stereotypes.

In an interview, Bonnie Aki-moto, the actress portraying the daughter Waverly in the TheatreWorks production, points out, "If the typical Asian stereotype is that quiet, intelligent, successful model minority, then there's that element in the story. But if you look at the daughters, their lives are kind of a mess. The daughter Waverly is already divorced. Lena and Rose are having problems with their husbands in their relationships. June is searching for herself, for what's important in her life. One of the phenomena of the story is that it humanizes us. The mothers are always pushing the daughters, but the daughters fail in one aspect or another. They're searching. It's very human."

Lisa Takata, the actress portraying Lena, says, "I think especially for the mothers from Mainland China, the story shows where they come from, what happened to them when they were young. It's giving them a voice. It explains their backgrounds, their superstition and rituals, instead of their just being old women wearing strange clothes."

Regarding this supposedly ethnic tale that has gargantuan crossover appeal, director Booker offers her take on why it speaks to so many people: "I think it's a very American story in that we are all immigrants. We all come from somewhere else. The big picture of

what do our parents give us from their past, their culture, what do we incorporate and what's lost. Those are the big questions."

Frontier tale

A new landmark in the American hall of mythology, *The Joy Luck Club* touches on that most unnerving yet exhilarating promise of all — transformation. The theme of immigration and self-creation has always been the promise of America from the day it was "discovered" 200 years ago. By now the wild frontier of identity and existence is not inhabited by cowboys and Indians, but by starry-eyed pilgrims who come to the New World to realize their dreams. Self-invention, the perennial American theme, is at the vital core of this hugely popular story. No more Chinese than, say, Pearl Buck's *The Good Earth*, and no less American than John Wayne's *The Stagecoach*, *The Joy Luck Club* offers the vicarious adventure of abandoning one's past, moving to a new land unknown, and creating a new self. The themes of traveling, of always being on-the-move, and of the secrets of one's old life spilling out after one's self-invention compete to give a crackling energy to this picaresque adventure disguised as a family drama.

The novel is neither the most introspective, nor the most socially committed work — it entirely glosses over the assimilation process, which Tan admitted in a candid 1989 *People* magazine interview. She has since moved on to the sharp social satire of cultural clashes in *The Kitchen God's Wife*, and a meditation on the ghosts of old culture in *Thousand Secret Senses*. *Joy Luck*, with its physicality, packed action, and adventure-filled storyline, is full of masculine action-taking rather than feminine self-analysis. The adventures of these eight women warriors are guaranteed to send a jolt of adrenaline through the body and jerk a tear or two from the eye.

Asked what she would like the audiences to get out of the play, director Booker says, "I hope we become sensitive to our family. What they try to give us. I hope the Chinese people in the Bay Area will have a bit of a touchstone here. I'm trying to do things with respect. For audiences who don't know the [Chinese] community as well, it's an exposure to a cultural background that's wonderful. Someone told me the Chinese are the Italians of Asia; it's true in a way, because there's such big humor, big emotion, great storytelling and loyalty. I think that comes across in this piece. Also, it's a lot of fun, too. Have a great time." ▼

TheatreWorks' production of *The Joy Luck Club* runs through May 2 at Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts. For tickets, call (650) 903-6000.

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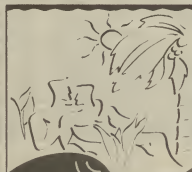
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BOOKS

Back in the day

by Linnea Due

Tales of the Lavender Menace by Karla Jay; Basic Books (1999), \$25

Less Pace University prof Karla Jay (*Out of the Closets, Dyke Life, Lesbian Brotics*) for writing *Tales of the Lavender Menace*. No longer must I struggle to explain what it was like in the late '60s and early '70s; I need only hand over Jay's book, which paints an amazingly complete and accurate picture of the period. She has it all: cats on acid, early Women's Lib meetings, horrifying CR groups (and gropes), apartments shared with a cast of thousands, bizarre discussions about which of your friends was an FBI agent, and the aggravation of having your phone tapped.

Much of this has been hashed out before, but not in Jay's telltale, immensely readable style. Nowhere have I read such a complete discussion of the early days of the Gay Liberation Front in New York City—or, for that matter, in Los Angeles, where most dykes preferred to foment the revolution by selling drugs at the beach. The lesbians in Manhattan, Jay relates, were made of sterner stuff, but that didn't prevent their queer guy pals from suggesting that women should concentrate on making coffee and running errands. (Of course, chauvinism was not limited to New York. The first GLF meetings I attended in Berkeley and San Francisco featured furious arguments on this topic, with SF dykes staging a walk-out, an act greeted with cries of "Good riddance!" from most of the men.)

But before Jay got into gay lib—before she came to terms with being lesbian—she joined the nascent women's movement. She dissects the power struggles of early movement leaders, who were hampered by the need to disguise their ambition by appearing mere radical than thou. Leaders started a new group when the membership of the old one demanded that decisions be shared; each leave-taking was wrenching, divisive, and energy-draining. Jay also documents the less-than-radical decisions that

led to documents like "The Woman-identified Woman," with its downplaying of lesbian sexuality (lesbian is defined as "the rage of all women condensed to the point of explosion").

'No sex, please?'

Perhaps to make up for her part in desexualizing lesbianism, which Jay calls "a tragic error" that convinced "subsequent generations of lesbians... that the Stonewall generation didn't have sex," Jay tells us about her flings from coast to coast. This could have sounded confessional but does not, because it's way too funny. Ringo, Jay's drug-gobbling cat, is jealous of almost every woman she takes to bed, particularly straight "political lesbians" who contract homosexual panic in the morning. Ringo's methods for clearing the conscience-stricken from Jay's apartment are priceless.

The Gay Liberation Front had its own star-seekers and insoluble dilemmas, like whether common cause could be found with the Black Panthers, or the revolution in Cuba supported when gays there were being herded into concentration camps. None of this seems dated, because insider Jay takes us right to Ground Zero, without Monday-morning quarterbacking or apologies. Present-day analysis is restricted to three or so paragraphs at the end of each chapter; otherwise we're right there, making our own judgment calls as the situation unfolds. It's like war gaming—what would you do when Ti-Grace Atkinson calls you the buffer zone between the patriarchy and feminists and asks with whom you're prepared to die? The immediacy of Jay's writing and her astounding recall makes her analyses welcome, particularly since they're devoid of equivocation or rationalization. She tells it as she sees it, and she's seen a lot.

Happily, Jay also never misses an opportunity to poke fun at herself and others. Did Metropolitan Community Church founder Troy Perry go home to grab a few bites during his ill-advised hunger strike? Is Rita Mae Brown an orphan ('70s model) or an abandoned love child with aristocratic ancestors (the '90s version)? It



does this material justice that Jay never loses her sense of the absurd; I can't imagine a more perfect chronicler. Check out the hilarious section, for instance, about the sit-in at the *Ladies Home Journal*. I won't spoil it for you; let's just say that apparently Shulamith Firestone (*The Dialectic of Sex*) decided the revolution had been nonviolent long enough.

How did Jay manage to be at the epicenter of all these groups? Sheer determination, a real commitment, and the fact that one of the marvels of the early '70s is that you could get away with hardly working at all. My only complaint is that if you write a book this time-based, it's odd to leave out some of the high points. The Democratic National Convention isn't mentioned, for example, though the televised antics of Chicago's Finest woke up parents and journalists across the nation,

page 39 ►

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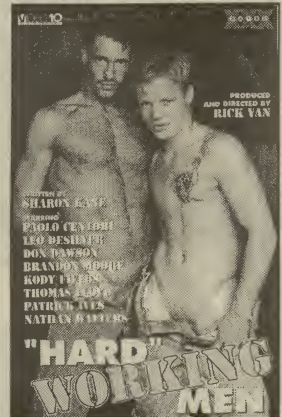
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Golden Dildeaux antics

by Mister Marcus

The 1999 edition of the Golden Dildeaux Awards, sponsored by the Golden Gate Guards last Saturday night, April 10, and emceed by **Lenny Broberg** and **Donna Sachet**, were as campy as any gay event can get. Some people are still complaining that their stomachs ache from laughing so much!

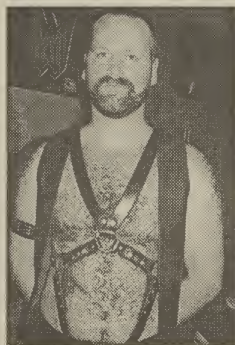
Lenny and Donna, no slouches at hurling barbs, were in prime form; no one escaped their slings and arrows. Every Holy Cow, here and around the world, was shot through.

To add to the pastiche, **Empress Sheba** warbled her little heart out in two sets, and **Mr. Lurch** had everyone in stitches with his observations on commercials, the awards, the winners and other meaty subject matter.

Despite of the on-again, off-again wind and rain, enthusiasm ran rampant rampant through the crowd as people surveyed the nominees and cheered the winners of the world's only gay sex awards. I doubt straight people would ever dare to hold an event anything like it!

Of course, it was easy to win one of the statuettes. If others didn't vote you winner, all you had to do was buy ballots and vote for yourself as many times as your pocketbook allowed (at only \$1 a pop, as cheap as happy hour brews, some guys allowed themselves to snap up dozens). So, yes, a lot of people shelled out big time just to win in certain categories.

The biggest loser, alas, was Mr. Northern California Drummer **Ray Tilton**, who was nominated for the *Paper Wedding Dress Award*. He arrived in a sparkling white wedding dress (though with no face makeup), and was sure he would win, but when his category came up — surprise! — that sly little **Mario Torrigino** was named the winner!



Mr. Hairy Chest 1999 David Connor of Oakland won the title at Daddy's last Wednesday, April 7, succeeding Robert Hernandez.

Well! Mr. Tilton came unglued! He ripped off the wedding dress (not an easy job when you consider that it was wired onto him, complete with a bustle) and threw the thing on the flames in the patio. I don't know what kind of paper it was, but huge flames leaped up, burning like crazy. The crowd burst into hysterics! People were rolling on the (wet) ground, laughing uproariously.

The big winner of the night, however, was that diminutive scamp, **Tony Apedaile**, allegedly still happily married, but arguably one of the biggest tramps to hit San Francisco since Sally Stanford.

Tony managed to win the *Punchboard Award*, *Leap Frog Award*, *Cocksucker of the Year Award*, and the top honor, *Golden Boy Award* (for best all around sex) during 1998.

Considering that his alleged "husband," **Chuck Rigsby**, won the *Dick of Death Award*, is it any wonder Tony feels the need to keep in practice?

There were some surprising upsets during the night, with the usual booing and applause mixed

in, but here are the results in the other categories:

Top of the Year: **Philip Turner**;
Nature Boy: **Robert Larabee**;
Golden Arm: **Russ Libby** (who else?);

Best Male Performance by a Female Impersonator: **Ernestine** (aka **Bob Sastini**);

Voyeur of the Year: **Tim Bishop**;
Sliver Lips: **Donna Sachet** (she protested she's allergic to wood! Yeah, right, Divine One!);
Cob Web: **Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt**;

Best Performance in a 3-Way: **Dirk Martia**;

Prince of Piss and Dick of Death: **Chuck Rigsby**;

Tea Room Commando: **Don "Ho" Tse** (as thousands cheered!);
Divine Miss M: **Scott Karnuth**;

Best Female Performance by a Male Impersonator: **Emperor TJ Istvan**;

Size Queen: **Mike Spencer**; and, in the two new categories added this year:

Pushy Bottom: **Jeff Minster**;
Bootlicker of the Year: **John Currier** (the surprise upset of the evening).

Hey, it was a blast — a very funny night all around!

Still more sashes

The list of 1999 title holders grows almost hourly.

Take last Wednesday night, when Robert Hernandez stepped down from his Mr. Hairy Chest title at Daddy's, making way in a packed house for six contenders to his title: Bill Adams, David Connor, Jeffe Cutter, Tracy Freeman, Anthony Pino and William Wetze. The crowd enthusiastically greeted the competitors.

When Judges Werner Tillinger, Daddy Lynn and Robert Hernandez added up their scores, the winner turned out to be David Connor of Oakland, while Jeffe Cutter was the runner-up. To all appearances, Connor seems to be up to the obligations he has incurred by winning this title.

Of course much fun was had during the event, including at the interlude as the Lollipop Guild

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, April 15

The Hole in the Wall celebrates its 5th anniversary all day today and tonight. No other details furnished.

Choosing Mr. September 2000 for the Millennium Bare Chest Calendar at 2100 at the Powerhouse. Win \$100, fame, fortune, a new husband ... or a maybe divorce?

Weekend April 16-18

Lots of strange faces around this weekend for Leather Leadership Conference #3, with most of the "official" action at the Holiday Inn (Pine @ California). It opens Friday night with lectures, demos, and panels designed to improve leather life. Be nice to the tourists. They're all leatherfolk!

Regiment of the Black & Tans in Los Angeles 25th anniversary annual Maneuvers weekend, with a gourmet banquet on Friday; Mess Dress Party at the Argyle Hotel. On Saturday, another secret gathering place; and on Sunday at 1600, a beer-party gathering at the Gauntlet II.

Friday, April 16

Exiles of SF meet at the Women's Bldg. (doors open 1930 to 2000) to hear "Stephanie" expound on single-tail whips, at 2000. \$3 for members, \$5 for others. Call 487-5170 or email: exiles@TheExiles.org.

Saturday, April 17

Birthday party for Mr. SF Leather Werner Tillinger at The Edge, at 1900, with a \$6 beer party, and a garage sale at 709 Page St. at 0900 to ben-

efit Family Link.

Constantine's beer party at Daddy's, 1600-1900; \$7 to benefit Coming Home Hospice.

Former Mr. Drummer Kyle Brandon retires from the porno industry tonight at the LURE in NYC, with a showing of *Fallen Angel I* and *II*. Bondage demo too!

Sunday, April 18

Celebrate the first anniversary of the Sundance Saloon at 174 King St. Free 2-step lessons at 1800; party at 1930 with entertainment and hey, it's all FREE! Thanks Ingu Yun, and congratulations!

Inter-Club Fund Bike Ride & Bike Blessing at 0930 at Daddy's, with trip to Santa Cruz Mountains, lunch in Princeton-by-the-Sea. Bring toll & lunch money

Leather Pride Contingent beer party at Daddy's for \$7 from 1600 to 1900 to benefit parade fees and other expenses.

Wednesday, April 21

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules. Mandatory clothes check. Call 863-HEAD for more info.

Also Leathermen's Discussion Group, 1930 @ Club Eros. Topic: How to bring back the spirit of the 70's, by speaker Papa Tony of San Diego. Free. Info? Call 551-0871.

Weekend, April 22-25

American Brotherhood Weekend in Washington, DC at Washington Plaza Hq. Eight men, eight women; five boys vying for American Leatherman, Leather Woman and Leather Boy. Hot hot hot!

ARTS

Curtain Up!

◀ page 32

Fund c/o Theatre Bay Area, 657 Mission Street, Suite 402, SF CA 94105, or call 957-1557 for more information.

Despite the fantasy of every backstage musical MGM ever made, actors are not really born declaiming Shakespeare. Acting takes craft, and craft takes serious study. The ACT Conservatory's 4th annual *Comedy Night at the Geary* raises funds for the Conser-

vatory's Scholarship Fund, so get yourself down to the Geary on April 19, have some laughs with Will Durst, Margaret Smith, and Dana Gould while you support the next generation of great actors. Call 749-2228 for information.

Berkeley Rep has made a contribution or two (or a thousand) to theatrelovers in the Bay Area. This year's chance to support their fine work is a gourmet dinner prepared by noted Bay Area chefs, all of whom cook at restaurants in which I can't afford to dine. Rinde Eckert will reprise a song from

Ravenshead, an opera for solo voice, which played earlier this year at BRT. Dig out those distinguished duds you're dying to don and dine at the Ritz-Carlton on April 30. Call (510) 204-8914 for information, but hurry, because this is one dinner that will sell out soon. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a performative nature, send them to peiferd@aol.com or via snail mail to the B.A.R.

Giselle

◀ page 35

ture, though Tan and Solomakha were not always in perfect unison. Their first act flirtation was so sweet and coltish that you were not quite sure why Giselle takes it so seriously. They are pure heaven to watch now; more experience with the roles, and they'll be touching as well.

Joanna Berman (Saturday matinee) doesn't need any more experience; I wept buckets during her mad scene. This was no dreamy village innocent but a vulnerable girl who fell like a ton of bricks for Pierre-François Vilano-

ba's devastating noble. If she keeps dancing with this tall, handsome cavalier, we'll have to retire that "poor Joanna" epithet. Positioned emotionally between Solomakha's shy suitor and Possokhov's predator, the swarthy Vilanoba was both dangerous and compelling. In Act Two he unleashed a powerful series of entrechats that sent the audience into hysteria. (Solomakha eschewed them, using that sequence of floor-skimming beats that Eric Bruhn used to bring the house down with.)

I saw two Myrthas, both disappointing because Tomasson didn't insist on those deep arabesques penchées that help define the in-placable Queen of the Willis.

Muriel Maffre's ball-bearing bourrées made the unsophisticated giggle (their loss), while Sherri LeBlanc's lack of an effortless balance told against Myrtha's militancy. Anita Paciotti and Katita Waldo mimed Giselle's mother eloquently. Damian Smith was an ideal Hilarion, madly in love with Giselle though unable to control his baser instincts, but Jorge Esquivel hammed the part unmercifully. It doesn't matter. This *Giselle* is a stunning show and should remain so for years to come. ▼

SF Ballet's *Giselle* runs through April 18. For tickets (\$12-115), call 865-2000.

Karla Jay

◀ page 37

giving protesters greater credibility.

But there's no question that Jay fleshes out the big picture: the peculiar combination of fervor and laid-back torpor that character-

ized every activity, the disdain with which middle-class kids regarded jobs and careers, the isolation of a youth culture amazingly unmitigated by other factors or contacts. It was a time of idealism favored by privilege, access to education, and a massive change in consciousness that is still too recent to apprehend. Jay's book —

set firmly in the period, willing to dish out both kudos and blame — takes the vital first step of telling the truth. ▼

Karla Jay reads from *Tales of the Lavender Menace* on Friday, April 16 at 7:30 p.m. at MCC.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

entertained the troops with some lively tempos, and some items were raffled off.

Meanwhile, in New York, a record crowd turned out for the first ever Ms. New York Leather Contest.

On Friday night, the meet-and-greet crowd included lots of celebs from the Eastern seaboard, all on hand at the Clit Club. On Saturday night, four contestants vied for the title. When all was said and done, a woman named Peggy, also known as just "O," won it all. The first runner-up was Leah from the Club DV8.

Of course there was a bit of gossip: While it wasn't formally announced, International Ms. Leather Megan DeJarlais and ImsL producer Amy Marie Meek are now more than an "item."

Also on Saturday night back east, in Albany, New York, the Stars MC staged their Mr. Empire State Leather contest. In an otherwise sterling production, the only flaw was that Mr. ESL '98 Michael Weems didn't bother to show up to judge or step aside!

I didn't get all the judging details, but just before my deadline, it was flashed that Michael Brewer of Albany won the title. Former San Franciscan Jimmy Lee Murray was the first runner-up with Jerry Acosta the second runner-up. Mr. Brewer will compete at American Brotherhood for the American Leatherman the weekend of April 22-24.

And let us not forget that Drummer hopefuls are in the wings.

Over the weekend of April 2-4, the Mr. Virginia Drummer contest was held at the Garage Bar in Norfolk, sponsored by the Knight

Hawks of VA.

Judges Carl Baldwin, Ryan Goldner, Scott Reikofski, Tom Stice and Tom Robinson had a field day with the contestants, and when it was over, Fraser Picard won it all.

The night before, the Virginia Drummer Boy contest was held at Rainbow Cactus bar in Virginia Beach, and Kyle Taylor won that

one. They will both compete in the Mid-Atlantic Drummer contest at the Baltimore Eagle the weekend of July 9-11.

Major male and female title contests this year are turning out very hot contestants!

And so it goes, same thing every year, just a new cast. Still, I and many others find it just as exciting each time around. ▼

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OUT&ABOUT

Fri 16

MCC

Karla Jay reads from *Tales of the Lavender Menace: A Memoir*, reflecting on the early days of the post-Stonewall gay liberation movement. Includes a discussion of early gay liberation groups with Blackberri, Martha Shelley and Nikos Diaman. Presented in conjunction with A Different Light Bookstore. Free. 7:30pm. Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka St.

Lone Star Saloon

Men of All Colors Together hold their monthly video night. Tonight's feature: *Café au Lait*. \$2 donation. Refreshments served. 7-9pm. 1354 Harrison St., 2nd floor. Info: 675-0201.

Jon Sims Center

AIrSpace artists Miguel Garcia and *Compañia Viva La Vida* showcase the photography of Rex Marin, paintings of Sean Papillion, music of S.K. Thoth and M. Garcia, and the theatre piece, "The Myth of Male Beauty." \$5-\$10 donation. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519

Mission St. (at 11th St.). 554-0402.

Luna Sea

"Spiraling Down — stepping into truth — a Fool's Journey," a three-act multimedia piece combining movement, theatre, visual art and live music, ending with an open dance for everyone. Performed by Eva Bergham, Sylvie Minot & Felicia Solomon. Composed by SEF Productions and Paz Ve Pipe. \$10-\$15. 8pm. Luna Sea Women's Performance Project, 2940 16th St. #216-C. 863-2989.

CCAC-SF

Opening reception: "Spaced Out: Late 1990s works from the collection of Vicki and Kent Logan." The sensation of bodily distortion in a vacuum-like space is the theme of this exhibition of some 15 recent works in photography, painting, sculpture and drawing. Commemorates the opening of the Kent and Vicki Logan Center. Free. 8pm-1am. California College of Arts and Crafts, San Francisco campus, 1111 Eighth St. (at Irwin near 16th St. & Wisconsin in Potrero Hill). Reservations required: 703-9520.

Revelation Gallery

Opening reception: "Deviant and Fugitive Works," featuring the art of Winston Smith, Eric White, Craig La Rotonda, Timothy Patrick Butler, and Clay Kilgore. Free. 8-11pm. 1114 Harrison St. (entrance on Langton St.). 551-1023.

SF Buddhist Center

The Beauty School dance troupe presents two new works. *Kriya*, constructed by Erika Shuch, involves a writer whose invented characters assume physical form. In *I See London, I See France*, choreographed by Jessica Fudim, a quartet of performers reveal people's inadvertent effects on one another. \$10. 8pm. Thru 4/17. 37 Bartlett St. (btwn. Mission & Valencia @ 21st St.). 558-8118.

New Conservatory Theatre

West Coast premiere: *The Nanjing Race*, a cross-cultural drama by Reggie Cheong-Leen, directed by Arturo Catricala. Hidden agendas and passion clash in this play about sexual preference, social reality, race, and blind ambition. \$20. 8pm. Thru 5/8. 25 Van Ness Ave. 861-8972.

Studio @ Rhino

"A Thin Place in the Universe," a new play written and directed by Jeff Schwamberger, featuring Jason Arquin, Caroline Ford, Allyson Kulavis, Al Perez, Mark VanDerBeets, and Sam Yelland. A First Seen production. \$15 & \$18. Thurs. & Fri. at 8:30pm; Sat. at 5pm & 8:30pm. Thru 5/1. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. (at S. Van Ness). 861-5079.

Venue 9

Footloose presents "Real Virtuality," theater with a holographic dimension. Writer/director Peter Freund intersperses live music with on-screen actors and video environments. \$10-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Fri.-Sun. thru 4/25. 252 Ninth St. (btwn. Folsom & Howard). 289-2000.

Brady Street Theater

The Dead Horse Ensemble presents "Electra," a fusion of *Hamlet* and *Electra*, written and directed by Elizabeth Spreen. \$12. 8pm. Thru 4/17. 60 Brady St. (btwn. Market & Gough). 558-9355.

Intersection for the Arts

Fifth Floor presents "Pierre," written and adapted by Ed Gaible from the writings of philosopher Michel Foucault. Directed by Kenn Watt. The play examines the complex relationship between Pierre Riviere, who slaughtered his family, and Foucault, for whom the case became a fascination. \$6-\$12 sliding. 8pm. Thru 4/18. 446 Valencia St. 626-3311.

Josie's

Tom Orr performs his one-man show, "Sweet Parody!" With comic retakes on classic Broadway showtunes. Birdie-Bob Watt accompanies on piano. \$12. (\$10 seniors/students). 8pm & 10pm. Thu. (8pm) Fri., & Sat. (8pm & 10pm). Thru 4/17. Josie's Cabaret & Juice Joint, 3583 16th St. (at Market & Noe). 861-7933.

Piaf's

Jazz vocalist Pam Munter pays tribute to Ol' Blue Eyes in "A Torch You Can't Lose... My Life as Frank Sinatra." \$20. 9pm. Tue.-Sun. thru 4/17 (showtimes vary). Dinner/show packages available. Piaf's Restaurant & Cabaret, 1686 Market St. (at Gough). 864-3700.

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Chris Black, founder of the San Francisco dance troupe Potrzebie

Potrzebie vs. Steamroller

It took me years to move beyond going to modern-dance performances just to see cute shirtless, sometimes pantsless boys leap around and bounce off one another in cool warehouse spaces. Thankfully, I've moved well out of that primitive stage of queer dancerboy lust, in large part owing to **Chris Black** and her ultra-sophisticated, gorgeously sexy company **Potrzebie**.

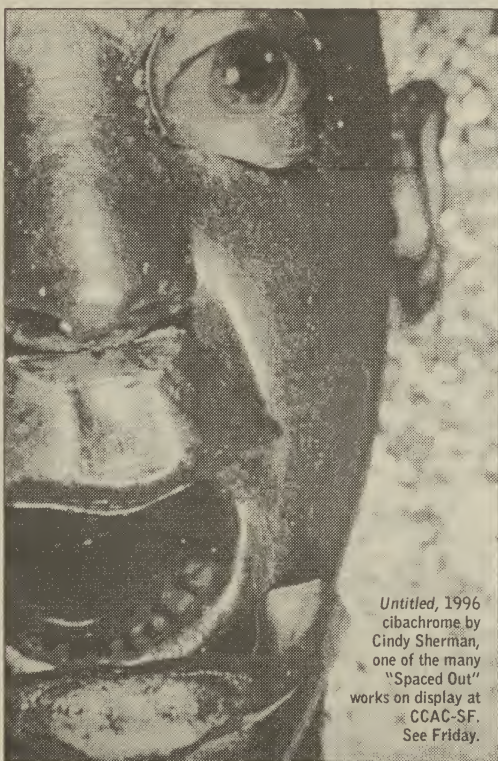
A friend introduced me to Chris five or six years ago, and started taking me to see her company in action. I was mesmerized. Stories, emotions, abstract ideas started materializing before my eyes, elaborated on by dancers of exceptional skill, who conveyed through intricate body movements a vast array of tingling sensations. Chris and her dancers awakened my senses to the rich vocabulary and unlimited possibilities of modern dance. She helped me appreciate women's bodies in motion, and to experience women's emotions; she also enabled me to see male dancers not as mere sex objects, but as calligraphic elements in the crafting of a beautiful language.

The pieces Chris choreographs incorporate a compelling mix of toughness and fragility, tension and release, stops and starts. They're fractal, not symmetrical. They're all odd angles, quirky group dynamics, wild bursts of athletics juxtaposed with tip-toeing softness. They contain momentary still lifes, significant glances, icy brush-offs, bursts of hysteria, and simmering eroticism. The individual dancers at times come forward, magnetizing us with their unique presences; at other times they recede, becoming abstract, impersonal, strictly metaphorical.

Whether Potrzebie ranks among the best dance companies in the Bay Area, I'm in no position to say. But I can say with certainty they're damned good, so my advice is to check them out April 16-17 and 23-24 at ODC Theater, when Potrzebie squares off against **Steamroller**.

Now that's going to be quite a competition — or love fest, more likely, since the two companies have cooperated closely for years, and share many of the same understandings about dance as the expression of complex abstract ideas. I saw first saw Steamroller founder **Jesselito Bie** when he was dancing with High Risk Group, and with Wells/Hermesdorf, and occasionally with Chris. I admired his fierce originality, energy, enthusiasm, physicality, and sometimes eroticism. He packed a wallop. Likely he will this time too. ▼

Double Feature: Potrzebie Dance Project and Steamroller takes place at 8pm Fridays and Saturdays, April 16-24, at ODC Theater, 3153 17th St. Admission is \$12. Reservations: 863-9834.



Untitled, 1996
cibachrome by
Cindy Sherman,
one of the many
"Spaced Out"
works on display at
CCAC-SF.
See Friday.

Sat 17

Yerba Buena Center

"Omar Sosa and Friends: An Evening of New Cuban Jazz," presented in association with La Peña Cultural Center. Sosa's sound incorporates Yoruba chants, hip hop, and the free-spirited expressionism of Thelonius Monk, all informed by AfroCuban jazz influences. With guest musicians Josh Jones (drums), Jeff Brennan (bass), Ron Stallins (sax), and vocalist Will Power. Sosa's latest CD, *Spirit of the Roots*, features more than 30 musicians. \$13-\$15. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission St. (at Third). Tix: 978-ARTS.

Fort Mason Center

Friends & Foundation of the SF Public Library present a 2-day bargain book sale. All books (not library books) 50 cents or \$1. New books each day. 10am-5pm. Also 4/18, 10am-3:30pm. Building A.

New College Theater

Small Press Traffic presents a world premier staged reading of Anne Carson's libretto to the opera *Deceatation*, staged in three parts by Carson and Kevin Killian. The subject is jealousy, both sexual and religious. Part 1 tells the story of Aphrodite, Ares, and Hephaestus; Part 2 the burning of the mystic 13th century Marquiere Porete; Part 3 the life of modern mystic Simone Weil. Readers include Taylor Brady, Pamela Lu, Lauren Goudath, Leslie Scalapino, Junona Jonas, Norma Cole, Wayne Smith, Rex Ray, Killian and Carson. \$5. 7:30pm. 777 Valencia St.

Minna St. Gallery

Opening reception: "365 Daze" ball-point pen media graffiti by Lennie Mace. Free. 9pm-2am. 111 Minna St. 974-1719.

Grupo Socio Cultural Hispano

Monthly potluck dinner in San Francisco for all Spanish-speaking Bay Area gay men and their friends. 6:30-10pm. For details, call Juan Carlos at 863-7087.

Chinese Culture Center

Magicians with a Message present "Khan Ju Ling: A Magical Journey of Illusion and Dance." A dream trilogy depicting the magical odyssey of a 19th century descendant of the great Mongolian ruler Kublai Khan who is lured to California by the Gold Rush. Dazzling costumes, sets, and special effects. \$18 (\$15 seniors; \$6 students under 18). 2pm & 5pm. Saturdays thru 6/12. 750 Kearny St., 3rd floor. 986-1822.

Sun 18

SFMOMA

Performance artist Ma Liuming, a member of the famed Beijing East Village art colony in the People's Republic of China, whose provocative work has caused a sensation at home and abroad, explores issues of gender and sexuality in this one-time-only appearance at SFMOMA. Disrobed and in full make-up, the artist will invite attendees to pose, dressed or naked, for photographs with him. A spotlight and the amplified sound of a camera shutter will emphasize the performance. Presented in conjunction with the exhibition "Inside Out: New Chinese Art." Free with museum admission (\$8 adults). 2pm. The Schwab Room, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 Third St. 357-4102.

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Mt. Tam hike, enjoying trees, moss-covered rocks, and cascading waterfall. It's a moderate 7-mile hike with an 800-ft. elevation gain. Meet 9:30am under the big Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Carpool cost is \$10 shared among passengers. Club info: 487-6410.

A Different Light

Two events: First, at 3:30pm, Anna Livia reads from *Bruised Fruit*, a humorous look at the lives of several women. Second, at 7:30pm, Ben Neihart reads from *Burning Girl*, his latest novel, in which rape and murder draw the hero to a sister and brother who may or may not have blood on their hands. Free. A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro St. 431-0891.

Club Townsend

Sundance Saloon, the country-western dance club, celebrates its one-year anniversary, with free admission to all. Beginning two-step lessons offered at 6pm. Party begins at 7:30pm, with performances by singers Charlie Pacheco and Doug Stevens, a house full of hot cowboys and cowgirls, and a birthday cake. Free. 6-11pm. 174 King St. (at 3rd).

Mon 19**Theatre Rhinoceros**

"Make It So" Productions and Steve Murray present "Viva Variety," a talent show in memory of medical-marijuana activist and cookbook author Mary Rathburn, aka "Brownie Mary." Featuring writer-actor-directors Doug Holsclaw and Danny Schele; comedians Danny Williams, Dan Rothenberg, and Scott Capurro; medical marijuana activist Dennis Peron; performance artists Matthew Simmons and Tara Jepsen; opera/Broadway singer Richard Nickol; vocalist David Cummings; members of the Barbary Coast Cloggers, and others. \$20 advance; \$25 door. 8pm. 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

A Different Light

Marci Blackman reads from *Po' Man's Child*, in which Po checks herself into a psychiatric hospital after sustaining a serious injury during an S/M scene. Free. 7:30pm.

Josie's

Open Mic Comedy night, hosted by Lisa Geduldig. \$5. 8pm. No reservations required.

Tue 20**Noh Space**

"Up On Deer Creek," in which performance artist Stacey Spain plays with changes in sexuality and uses bawdy humor, a bent toward Catholicism, a strange love of Julie Andrews, multiple characterizations, torch-singer angst and red-dress archetypes to create a surreal dreamscape. Small, blond, briefly naked, given to strong language, Spain tells of sexual abuse, survival and hope. \$10-\$12. 8pm. 2840 Mariposa St. at Project Artaud. 621-7978.

Intersection for the Arts

"New Works/New Voices," a benefit for Intersection, featuring renowned poet Gary Soto and essayist/writer Alberto Ledesma. \$5 (\$3 students/seniors). 8pm. 446 Valencia St. (btwn. 15th & 16th). 626-2787.

A Different Light

Gary Indiana reads from *Three-Month Fever*. Free. 7:30pm.

Wed 21**City Lights**

Book release party and signing for Gary Indiana, celebrating the release of *Three Month Fever*. "An Account of the Extraordinary Killing Rampage of Andrew Cunanan, 27, His Life, His Death, and the Amazingly Bizarre Media Coverage of the Same." Free. 7pm. City Lights Booksellers and Publishers, 261 Columbus Ave.

City College

Free introduction to the practice of *Feng Shui*, the Chinese Art of Placement. Teacher Ho Lynn discusses the theory of *CH'i* (the vital force), the *Yin/Yang* dichotomy theory of the universe, and the Tao and *I Ching* (Book of Changes). She will offer practical *Feng Shui* ideas to bring harmony and balance to our living en-

Chinese performance artist Ma Liuming explores the body as art at SFMOMA. See Sunday.



vironments. Part of the City College Concert/Lecture Series. Noon-1:30pm. Conlan Hall room 101, City College, 50 Phelan Ave. (at Ocean). Info: 239-3580.

Little Theatre, SFSU

The Theatre Arts Department presents Kander and Ebb's *Cabaret*, based on *The Berlin Stories* of Christopher Isherwood (1904-1986). Set in the Kit Kat Klub, a seedy nightclub in late 1930s Berlin, *Cabaret* traces the horrific development of Nazism through the characters of singer Sally Bowles and her lover, the young bisexual American writer Cliff Bradshaw. Directed by Yukihiko Goto. \$11 (\$9 students/seniors). 8pm (2pm Sunday). Thru 5/2. Creative Arts Bldg., San Francisco State University, 1600 Holloway Ave. 338-2467.

A Different Light

Steven Zeeland discusses his new book *Military Trade*, addressing the question: "What is it about a man in uniform?" Zeeland is the author of a trilogy of interview books with military men: *Sailors and Sexual Identity*; *Barrack Buddies and Soldier Lovers*; and *The Masculine Marine*. His latest book records the voices of civilian men (and one woman) who call themselves "military chasers." Free. 7:30pm.

Thu 22**The Booksmith**

As part of a city-wide William S. Burroughs festival, James Grauerholz and Ira Silverberg talk about and sign copies of *Word Virus: The William S. Burroughs Reader*, edited by the Burroughs' two close friends and literary

collaborators. Free. 7pm. 1644 Haight St. 863-8688.

Artists' Theater Workshop, Oakland

"Omnimicro," a performance showcase of electronic musicians, visual artists, and technological dweebs that will vibrate the walls of the ATW with trickle-down technology. Sound design, audio environments, ambience, and drone featuring Wobbly, Involution, Brain Science, David Elinoff (audio), Imaja, and Optikal Nutrasweet™ (visuals). \$5-\$7 sliding. Doors open 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 1932 Telegraph Ave., Downtown Oakland (near 19th St. BART). Info: (510) 653-1602.

The Stud

Klubstitute Collective presents "She-Haw!" It's Klubstitute Kuntry night for all you redneck, cuzzin' lovin', trailertrash kowboys & kowgrrriz. Promoter Ruby Toosday declares: "This ho-down will be more exciting than a monster-truck rally." With emcees Joan Jett-Blakk and Wenda Watch and rip-snottin', rootin' tootin' performances by the Kornfield Kut-Ups, the kunny band Salt Lick, Bea Dazzler, Ree Alatea, Demanda Mann, Djuna and more. Plus: a Big Hair Contest. Two-step the night away with DJs Roadhouse Ruby and Cowboy Quest. \$3.98 (free before 11pm). 10pm-3am. Info: 331-3438.

John Pence Gallery

Opening reception: *Trompe l'Oeil*, paintings by 20 American artists whose realist works all display a mastery of old-fashioned three-dimensionality. Free. 6-8:30pm. 750 Post St. 441-1138.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

This Week's Dinner Specials

Grilled N.Y. Pepper Steak encrusted with cracked pepper, brandy-cream sauce, vegetable, french fries & onion rings\$13.95

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Fresh Atlantic Salmon grilled or poached with white wine-lemon-dill sauce, chef's rice or potatoes\$11.75

Prime Rib Au Jus with baked potato and creamy horseradish\$13.95

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PROGRAM B (APR 24): *CRWDSPCR*, MUSIC BY JOHN KING; *POND WAY*, MUSIC BY BRIAN ENO; *BIPED* (WORLD PREMIERE), MUSIC BY GAVIN BRYARS

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Cal Performances

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Bryn Campbell, David Frank, and Alisha Silver star in *Cabaret* at SFSU. See Wednesday.



S. Todd Rogers

dosing / time / convenience

drug cocktail / work / side effects

why

Can't someone make
HIV THERAPY
less complicated



food interactions / balance

someone just did!



SUSTIVA™ is the first HIV drug approved to be taken once-a-day as part of your combination therapy. Just take three 200 mg capsules together once daily, with or without food; high fat meals should be avoided. Your doctor may suggest taking SUSTIVA at bedtime to reduce any side effects you may experience.

SUSTIVA, an NNRTI*, must be used in combination with other HIV drugs.

SUSTIVA is tough on HIV. It reduces the amount of virus in your blood and increases the number of CD4 cells. SUSTIVA can even be used in young children, 3 years of age or older. This is based on results from controlled clinical trials at 24 weeks. Presently, there are no results from controlled clinical trials showing the long-term effects of SUSTIVA.

SUSTIVA has manageable side effects. Most side effects are mild to moderate and can be managed. The most significant side effects associated with SUSTIVA therapy have been nervous system symptoms (dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating and/or abnormal dreams) and rash. These usually subside within the first two to four weeks of treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. Taking SUSTIVA at bedtime may help make nervous system symptoms less noticeable.

**Now listed
among preferred
anti-HIV drugs
in government
guidelines.¹**

Once Daily
SUSTIVA™
efavirenz

Pregnancy should be avoided in women receiving SUSTIVA because birth defects have been seen in primates dosed with SUSTIVA. Barrier contraception should always be used in combination with other methods of contraception.

Talk to your doctor when you start taking SUSTIVA. SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Always tell your doctor if you are taking, starting or changing any prescription or non-prescription medicine when taking SUSTIVA. Your doctor may change your medicines or change their dose. You should discuss your prior medical conditions (such as mental illness, substance abuse, hepatitis, etc.) with your doctor before taking SUSTIVA.

We know that coping with HIV is difficult enough. Your treatment doesn't have to be. Ask your doctor about SUSTIVA. For more important information see the next page for Patient Information about SUSTIVA.

FOR HIV

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*NNRTI - non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor.

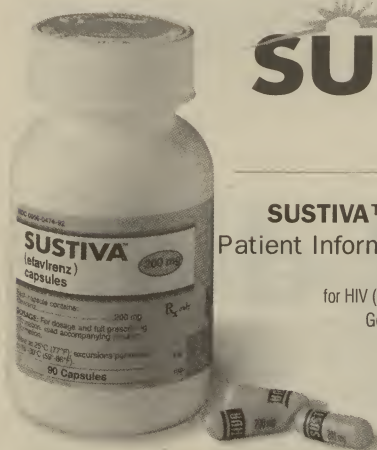
For more information on SUSTIVA, call 1-800-4PHARMA or visit our website at <http://www.sustiva.com>

For more information on the updated DHHS Guidelines, a PDF file of the guidelines is available at <http://www.hivatis.org>

1. Guidelines for the Use of Antiretroviral Agents in HIV-Infected Adults and Adolescents. Panel on Clinical Practices for Treatment of HIV Infection, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), December 1998.

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Once Daily SUSTIVA™ efavirenz

SUSTIVA™ (efavirenz) capsules Patient Information about SUSTIVA*

(sus-TEE-vah)
for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) Infection
Generic name: efavirenz (eh-FAH-vih-rehnz)

Please read this information before you start taking SUSTIVA. Read it again each time you refill your prescription, in case there is any new information. Don't treat this leaflet as your only source of information about SUSTIVA. Always discuss SUSTIVA with your doctor when you start taking your medicine and at every visit. You should remain under a doctor's care when using SUSTIVA. You should not change or stop treatment without first talking to your doctor.

What is SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is a medicine used to help treat HIV, the virus that causes AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). SUSTIVA is a type of HIV drug called a "non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor" (NNRTI).

How does SUSTIVA work?

SUSTIVA works by lowering the amount of HIV in the blood (called "viral load"). SUSTIVA must be taken with other anti-HIV medicines. When taken with other anti-HIV medicines, SUSTIVA has been shown to reduce viral load and increase the number of CD4 cells (a type of immune cell in blood). SUSTIVA may not have these effects in every patient.

Does SUSTIVA cure HIV or AIDS?

SUSTIVA is not a cure for HIV or AIDS. People taking SUSTIVA may still develop other infections associated with HIV. Because of this, it is very important that you remain under the care of your doctor.

Does SUSTIVA reduce the risk of passing HIV to others?

SUSTIVA has not been shown to reduce the risk of passing HIV to others. Continue to practice safe sex, and do not use or share dirty needles.

How should I take SUSTIVA?

- The dose of SUSTIVA for adults is 600 mg (three 200 mg capsules, taken together) once a day by mouth. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower (see **Can children take SUSTIVA?**).
- Take SUSTIVA at the same time each day. You should take SUSTIVA at bedtime during the first few weeks or if you have side effects, such as dizziness or trouble concentrating (see **What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA?**).
- Swallow SUSTIVA with water, juice, milk or soda. You may take SUSTIVA with or without meals; however, SUSTIVA should not be taken with a high fat meal.
- Do not miss a dose of SUSTIVA. If you forget to take SUSTIVA, take the missed dose right away. If you do miss a dose, do not double the next dose. Carry on with your regular dosing schedule. If you need help in planning the best times to take your medicine, ask your doctor or pharmacist.
- Take the exact amount of SUSTIVA your doctor prescribes. Never change the dose on your own. Do not stop this medicine unless your doctor tells you to stop.
- When your SUSTIVA supply starts to run low, get more from your doctor or pharmacy. This is very important because the amount of virus in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time. The virus may develop resistance to SUSTIVA and become harder to treat.

Can children take SUSTIVA?

Yes, children who are able to swallow capsules can take SUSTIVA. Rash may be a serious problem in some children. Tell your child's doctor right away if you notice rash or any other side effects while your child is taking SUSTIVA. The dose of SUSTIVA for children may be lower than the dose for adults. Capsules containing lower doses of SUSTIVA are available. Your child's doctor will determine the right dose based on your child's weight.

Who should not take SUSTIVA?

Do not take SUSTIVA if you are allergic to SUSTIVA or any of its ingredients.

What other medical problems or conditions should I discuss with my doctor?

Talk to your doctor right away if you:

- Are pregnant or want to become pregnant
- Are breast-feeding
- Have problems with your liver, or have had hepatitis
- Start or change any medicine
- Have side effects while taking SUSTIVA
- Have a history of mental illness, substance or alcohol abuse

What are the possible side effects of SUSTIVA (efavirenz)?

Many patients have dizziness, trouble sleeping, drowsiness, trouble concentrating, and/or unusual dreams a few hours after starting treatment with SUSTIVA. These feelings may be less noticeable if you take SUSTIVA at bedtime. They also tend to go away after you've taken the medicine for a few weeks. Rarely, patients have more serious side effects that may affect mood or ability to think clearly. These side effects occur more often in patients with a history of mental illness or substance abuse. Tell your doctor promptly if any of these side effects continue or if they bother you. There is the possibility that these symptoms may be more severe if SUSTIVA is used with alcohol or mood altering (street) drugs. You should avoid driving or operating machinery if you are having these side effects.

One of the most common side effects is rash. These rashes usually go away without any change in treatment. In a small number of patients, rash may be serious. If you develop a rash, call your doctor promptly.

Other common side effects include tiredness, upset stomach, vomiting, and diarrhea. However, this is not a complete list of side effects reported with SUSTIVA when taken with other anti-HIV drugs. Do not rely on this leaflet alone for information about side effects. Your doctor can discuss a more complete list of side effects with you.

Please contact your doctor immediately before stopping SUSTIVA because of side effects. Tell your doctor or other healthcare provider if you notice any side effects while taking SUSTIVA.

What about birth control, pregnancy, or breast-feeding?

Women should not become pregnant while taking SUSTIVA. Birth defects have been seen in animals treated with SUSTIVA. It is not known whether this could happen in humans. You should use a condom or diaphragm in addition to other methods of birth control while taking SUSTIVA. Inform your doctor immediately if you are pregnant. If you want to become pregnant, talk to your doctor. Do not take SUSTIVA if you are breast-feeding. Talk to your doctor if you are breast-feeding your baby.

Can I take other medicines with SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA may change the effect of other medicines (including ones for HIV). Your doctor may change your medicines or change their doses. For this reason, it is very important to:

- Let all your doctors and pharmacists know that you take SUSTIVA.
- Tell your doctors and pharmacists about all medicines you take. This includes those you buy over-the-counter and herbal or natural remedies.

Bring all your medicines when you see a doctor, or make a list of their names, how much you take, and how often you take them. This will give your doctor a complete picture of the medicines you use. Then he or she can decide the best approach for your situation.

The following medicines may cause serious and life-threatening side effects when taken with SUSTIVA. You should not take any of these medicines while taking SUSTIVA:**

- Hismanal® (astemizole)
- Propulsid® (cisapride)
- Versed® (midazolam)
- Halcion® (triazolam)
- Ergot medications (for example, Wigraine® and Cafergot®)

The following medicines may need to be changed or have their dose changed when taken with SUSTIVA:**

- Crixivan® (indinavir)
- Fortovase® (saquinavir)
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin)

How should I keep SUSTIVA?

SUSTIVA is available as 50 mg, 100 mg, and 200 mg capsules.

Keep SUSTIVA at room temperature (77°F) in the bottle given to you by your pharmacist. The temperature can range from 59°-86°F.

Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children.

How can I learn more about SUSTIVA?

Talk to your doctor or other healthcare provider if you have questions about either SUSTIVA or HIV. For additional information you can visit the SUSTIVA website at <http://www.sustiva.com>.

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use it for any other condition or give it to anybody else. Keep SUSTIVA out of the reach of children. If you suspect that more than the prescribed dose of this medicine has been taken, contact your local poison control center or emergency room immediately.

TELEVISION

Mission: Implausible

by Victoria A. Brownworth

Spring is in the air. Ah, don't you just love the smell of gunpowder in the morning? Yes, the new NATO series *Airstrike Over Serbia* has just been renewed by all the networks for another week, and rumor has it the series may get even more extended air play. Expected to be a midseason replacement for the long-running but recently canceled *Monica and Bill Show*, *Airstrike* has so infused flagging ratings at CNN, MS/NBC and Fox News (as well as reinvigorated the Sunday morning talking heads-fests) that the clamor for more episodes has been, well, earth-shattering. Critics claim it has all the right stuff: murder, mayhem, intrigue, burning buildings (essential on Fox), an obvious villain, and of course, terrible human tragedy.

Despite the ratings raves, fans of the *Monica and Bill Show* and even of the short-lived *Impeachment!* miniseries are calling *Airstrike* a bomb and have demanded the return of those tried-and-true ratings grabbers. There was even talk that the renegade beaver popping cherry after cherry (is that an oxymoron?) along the Tidal Basin in Washington last week was a publicity stunt to refocus attention on the Oval Office antics.

ABC (the Anti-Bill Clinton network) has made the easiest transition to the new programming, promulgating an aggressive argument that ethnic cleansing in Kosovo just isn't the Holocaust while simultaneously calling the President and NATO big pussies for not sending in ground troops. And isn't General Schwarzkopf looking svelte these days? Nothing like a network consultancy job chewing the fat to trim the fat.

Meanwhile, Serb TV has been showing promos of Serbian troops in action defeating NATO (sort of like Wiley Coyote finally gets Roadrunner). The most recent Serbian ad campaign featured the theme from *Mission: Impossible*, scenes of Serbian artillery driving NATO planes back, and the words NATO: *Mission Impossible!* in big letters at the end. (Apparently "Die capitalist infidels!" was considered passé.) Art imitates life — or is that life imitates TV?

Pushy Bottom System

On a gayer note, all those fans of Tinky Winky forced to actually work instead of watching TV all day long will be thrilled to discover PBS knows you are out there and in true PBS bottom fashion, aims to please. With a promo that can only be described as smutty, PBS suggests you find out what all the excitement is about with *Teletubbies After Dark*, which will air Saturdays at 1 a.m. We can just imagine smarmy choruses of "Let's do it again!" and "Uh, oh!" What's next, Tinky Winky-colored condoms or Teletubby Rainbow Lube?

Teletubbies were sub-referenced on network TV's only official gay show when Will of NBC's *Will & Grace* exclaimed as Jack (could he be any gayer? Paul Lynde is turning over in his grave realizing he was born too soon.) came by in his orange community service jumpsuit: "And they said Tinky Winky was the only gay teletubby!"

We urge those who say internalized homophobia doesn't exist to tune in to W&G. We know we hate ourselves for loving this show so much. This week found Grace and Molly Shannon of *Saturday Night Live* fighting over Will.

Karen tells Grace, "I don't like the way she's so chummy with your husband. Your non-romantic life partner. Your sexless lover." Hello girls, he's GAY. Though when the fur began to literally fly and Debra Messing and Shannon were on the floor tearing each other's clothes off (and not in a good way, especially as they had not established a safe word prior to the tussle), Will entered and noted, "Once again, girl-on-girl action, and it's totally lost on me."

Such action will not be lost on that party gal from Fox, Neve Campbell, however. Fresh from a few risqué filmmaking ventures, she'll be back with a vengeance over the next few weeks as *Party of Five* winds down to May sweeps. As we know, our gal Julia has had a rough season — first the break-up of her marriage (she was too young and Griffin was too, well, gay), then the abusive relationship at college that landed her in the ladies room frequently applying makeup (we didn't even know she owned any) to bruises and explaining why her face had suddenly gotten so clumsy. What's left for a girl who's done everything at such a tender age? Hot girl-on-girl action, of course. Watch for Julia to test the sexuality waters à la *Dawson's Creek*. If you caught *Wild Things* on the big screen, you know Campbell's definitely got the knack (or is it snatch?) for such a storyline.

'Beach' girls
Speaking of girl-on-girl action, our eyebrows have been raised so perpetually while watching NBC's *Sunset Beach* these days that we are worried about permanent wrinkles in our silken brow. What's up with Maria and the mysterious Tess? Do straight girls really ask their mothers, as Maria did when she introduced Tess to the *bruja* Madame Carmen, "What do you think of her?" And when Tess asked Maria why they couldn't just live together again like they did in Seattle, there was a definite electricity in the air.

Frankly, we think Maria would be far better off in the capable butch-bottom hands of Tess than mooning over the ever-more-tedious Ben. After all, his accent begins to wear thin after a while. As does the aw-shucks Jimmy Olsen/George Stephanopoulos hair flopped over the brow. And need we mention the back hair?

For those queens getting ready to fly their rainbow flags at half-mast now that Fox's *Melrose Place* has been axed (first *Dynasty*, now this!), we recommend *SB*, like *MP* (and *Tori* and *Randy*) an Aaron Spelling baby. This show is the campiest since *Absolutely Fabulous*. We haven't seen anything so delightfully over the top since Elizabeth Taylor's breasts in *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*. *SB* has everything *MP* has (except Heather Locklear) — women made of silicone, collagen and hair products in skirts that barely cover their equipment; cute, obviously gay guys with pants that accentuate their equipment; amazingly bad acting; ridiculously implausible storylines; and money to burn.

On *SB*, as the quest to find Francesca's killer heats up, the fantasy game show sequences (including a week with Jerry Springer) starring the marvelous Sarah Buxton (Annie) have been fabulous. While other soaps attempt storylines that at least touch on the realistic, or even approach the socially conscious, *SB* gives us the zipliss no-brainer that we want — glitz and glamour layered with intrigue and sex. TV trifle; sooo delicious.

What, may we ask, is with all the refugees from the Trial of the Century (no, not *Impeachment!*)

doing guest spots on

TV shows in recent

weeks? Books being

remained? First

Johnnie Cochran did

a turn on *Guiding*

Light (a stretch — he

played himself);

then Kato

Kaelin

cameoed on

It's Like, You

Know... Now Christopher Darden has a recurring role as Olivia's attorney on *SB*. What's next, O.J. kills the entire cast on the final episode of *MP*?

Finally, for those who were wondering if baby love had turned Rosie O'Donnell into just another Connecticut *haus frau*, her recent exchange with Dame Judi Dench (whom she taught to eat Oreos cookies, though licking out the cream is not her orientation. She likes to smother them in milk and have them melt in her mouth.) suggests otherwise. "Your eyes are so blue I could just fall into them," she gushed at the somewhat nonplussed Dame. "I just looove you." ▼



Lavender Tube

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Garage open every night 8pm-12M except Mon and Thu.
Adjoining video theater feats 3 continuous porno screens showing both recent-release and J/O specialty male videos.
Theater open every day 10am-12M.



Unlike many clubs nearby, the Circle J is safe, clean, friendly and relaxed. Not a cruise-bar disguised as a sex club, we're designed for guys who like to show off and watch others show off.

Must check street clothes Tue & Fri (underwear OK).
Clothes check also available other nights. Adm. \$8

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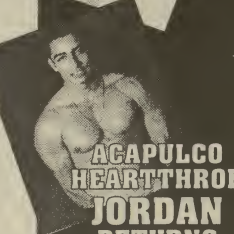
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HELD OVER

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ALEX
CARRINGTON



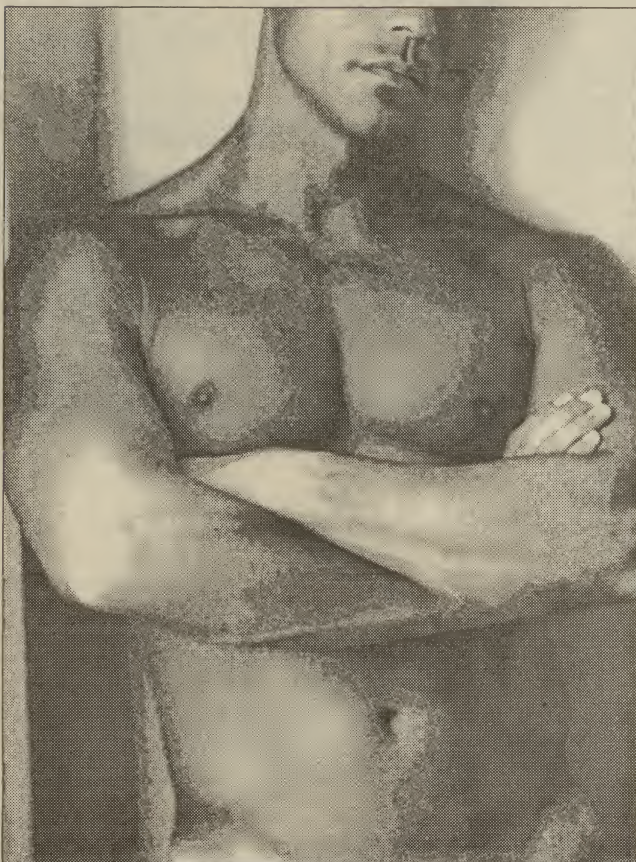
ACAPULCO
HEARTTHROB
JORDAN
RETURNS

LATE SHOWS
&
GROUP SHOWS
TH/F/S

TEENAGE
TUESDAY
IF YOU'RE 18/19
IT'S FREE!!

REDUCED ADMISSION FOR TICKETS PURCHASED BEFORE 12PM

BAR TALK



Steven Underhill

1.900.844.2227

Only 98¢ per minute to respond to ads!

Available only on touch-tone phones in the Bay Area. You must be at least 18 years old to call.

PARTING GLANCES

Brian M. H.
We met United 947 DC to SF last Friday. We laughed a lot and flirted. I think only got salt of your number from Sat message. Pls call again. I know you'll make me like it up to you. Let's laugh some more Les. ☎ 6900

3/16- Safeway/Portero-8:30pm
You: Tall, dk. hair, mustache-great eyes & smile. Me: Green jacket, Hard Rock b/ball cap & glasses. Eyes caught a few times! Coffee? Beer? ☎ 6901

Met At Steamworks 3/2 RM 235
You: Japanese, blond-lit ring. Me: tall, muscular, mustache, would love to eat & fuck that ass some more. Call me. ☎ 7000

Leaving Friends Of Academy Party
10pm walked through parking lot together. Spoke about early evening, working Monday. You: Handsome Latin(?) Me: Tall GWM, bald, beard, glasses, with friend. Would love to meet again. S 6902

Kite Hill Sun 3/21
You, dark hair, white t-shirt, leather coat, playing ball with your dog Astro. Me: short light brown hair, in sweat sitting on bench-watching. Too shy to speak. Please call. ☎ 6903

Watergarden 9:30pm 4/2/99
You: David from San Raphael. Sexy & hairy Didn't leave telephone number. Had to leave to catch Cal Train. Will we meet again. ☎ 7100

High Speed Cruising
We were both in our cars in Santa Clara driving to work. Nice smile! Want to connect up? ☎ 7108

18th At Castro
You: cute young guy on crutches waiting for the bus. Me: caring generous older guy. You smiled then got on bus. Would like to meet you. Please call. ☎ 6904

Scott You Answered My Ad
Entitled "Master seeks Slave", box # 6711, but you did not leave a complete phone number. Please call this box number would like to talk. ☎ 7103

Easter Sunday-Eagle About 5:30
You: good looking, clean shaven blonde with friend. Me: standing at bar, muscular, in tank top. Wasn't sure about your friend. Can we fix that? I'd like to meet you. ☎ 7102

Peet's Coffee On Friday 3/26pm
We winked at each other on Friday night @ approx. 9:00pm. Both of us were with someone. I was sitting & you smiled & winked. Pls. call. ☎ 7107

10 Naked Men
Sat. March 27, intermission. Me: tall with glasses by recycle bins. You: shorter, dark hair and beautiful eyes, white tee. We smiled and said hi, both seemed too shy about talking. Give a call, would like to meet you. ☎ 7001

Easter @ Blow Buddies
Hi, Mark, this is Bob. We exchanged names after I took care of your gorgeous Easter basket at the stalls. You: blond, blue-eyed he-man, Me: salt & pepper. Let's do it again. ☎ 7101

U,GM,Me,GAM,24hr-Ftns@VanNess
Last year, you, 5'8"-ish, dark, sturdy, 30's approached me 5'7", lean, 20's, at abdominal machine downstairs. I wasn't available then. You said, "Thank you very much" when left. Please respond. ☎ 7105

Civic Center Bart-Friday 4/2
Fremont train. 8pm exchanged smiles; You: Asian, khaki shorts, reading "Candle in the night". Me: earring, mustache, goatee, white jacket, NY mets cap, please call ☎ 7104

Twice! Castro? .0. & Spike's 4/1
You: cute, blonde, glasses, picked up int'l parcel at P.O. Me: tall, dark, goatee standing in line. We: exchanged several looks & then at Spikes. We must meet. Coffee? ☎ 7106

Sat. Apr 3 Webster St. 10am
You- lite blue jeans, leather jacket, walking large black dog. Me- cruised in mini-van, stopped. You walked by and smiled. Would love to meet and talk. ☎ 7109

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Romantic Brazilian Guy
36, 5'7", 132lbs, long brown hair, eyes and skin brown, masculine, educated, clean. Professional. No drugs. Nice hard dick "8". You're GWM. I'll be only for you. Honey moon forever. ☎ 6905

Bear Cat Seeks Bear
39, 190lb. 5'9", brn, grn, mustache /beard, intelligent, stable. Seeking butch but gentle male, 30-45 years, smart, affectionate, bearded, shaggy, furry. Husband material. Leather/Levis encouraged. ☎ 6906

Looking For That Special One
SGWM, 26, 5'7", 130 lbs, blond/bie, hairy chest, legs, but open honest. Seeking that special one for love, walks, etc. ☎ 6907

42y/o Prof. GWM + 4y/o Doggie
Lost my soulmate 6 yrs ago, due to MUA. I am ready and willing to go forward. You must desire same. ISO Ltr, with one who likes himself and cares. ☎ 6908

Strip Down For My Tongue
E.Bay GWM, 55, husky, ISO Latino in-shape. Let me lick the sweat off your balls Tongue your ass. Married, ok. HIV-. ☎ 6909

Soulmates Sought Oakland
64 year old HIV+, poetic man, smoker, big dude, seeks to share a living space. Friend or sex good too. Funky versatile fun loving person. ☎ 6910

Trim/Fit 70yo Phi Beta Kappa:
Cockcucker all my ex-model/escort, adult gay life, ISO sweet gentle slim attractive guy, any race, w/big dick to start fucking me & making me grow to love it/hihi! ☎ 6913

Soulmate Sought
GAM, 49, 5'10", 155, HIV-, attractive looking for SGWM to share life with. ☎ 7110

Asian/ Pi Top Cutie
Massage my back; ride my firm butt. Attractive W/M, 48. Safe, neg, discreet. ☎ 7112

Ready To Settle Down
Straight acting 39 WM, into kyaking, surfing, camping, cafes, extensive travel, movies & friends. ISO intelligent 18-28 yrs. old, who is naturally smooth and fun to hand out with. No mad queens. ☎ 6916

Mature GWM Seeks Younger Man
For intimate love-making sexual times. I'm young looking-acting, 75, 5'7", 165, sexual and romantic. You: are 18-40, gdlk'g and affectionate like me. Ltr? ☎ 7002

Attractive Latino
33yo goodlooking Latino 5'7", 150# goatee, professional looking for GWM between 27-40yo for friendship or more. I like going to movies, dinner, hiking. Go to dinner, call. ☎ 7003

Wanted Married Disc. Male
Satisfaction guaranteed by a discreet, prof. semi retired gentleman. East Bay only. No phones please. ☎ 7004

Seeking Asian Boyfriend
GWM, 39, 6'-185#, soft brown hair/ bright hazel eyes, caring, affectionate. ISO slim/trim, in-shape, smooth, clean-shaven Asian or Asian-American with nice qualities. ☎ 7005

European 56 years 5'11"
32" waist. New in SF, seeks friend. Black or Hispanic. Love to kiss etc. Pls call. ☎ 7006

Tall, Dark, Handsome Cancer
HIV+, GWM, 40ish, sexy, 6'3", 185#, goatee, well-educated. Former New Yorker seeks blond or sandy hair taurus, cancer, scorprio, 30-40. Interests: art, lit, theatre for ltr. ☎ 7007

Clark Kent Adman From N.Y.
Assertive, affectionate, articulate, warm, witty, youthful GWM soulmate/sexmate, 40, 6'1", 178# br/gr, HIV-. We will kiss on balcony; in heated pool & elevator. Midway between gay adolescence and elder statesmanship. ☎ 7998

Gay Asian Male Seeking
Other sincere and caring guys (GAMs & GWMs) for dating and possible ltr. Me: 30's, 5'7", 150lbs, professional, responsible, goodlooking, HIV-. Let's talk & meet. ☎ 7009

Quality LTR Oriented GAM ISO
Other professional, sincere honest and caring men for quality time and hopefully a nurturing long term relationship. 30's, 5'8", 145lbs. ☎ 7010

Asian Doll For Mouse Boy
42yr. old looking for Asian boy to play with on a regular basis. No strings attached and discreet. ☎ 7011

Uncut, And Unattached?
Do you want and need a man in your life??? GWM 53, 5'8", 175, brn/bl, beard, HIV- seeks relationship and intimacy with loving, bright, fun, affectionate, and horny GM. ☎ 6911

32yr. Old Asian Want
Are you in available market? GAM looking for well-educated honest, mature GWM who is under 45. For sure, tomorrow is a beautiful day! ☎ 6912

Handsome Blackman ISO Cute GWM
I'm 26 5'10" masculine, handsome, gym fit body, ambitious, professional. You: 22-35 clean-shaven muscular or medium build ambitious professional for affectionate relation, kissing ok sex must wait. ☎ 7012

Daddy Bear 54 6-5 290 Gray/Blu
I want a buddy/brother/boy 18-40 or so. You might share my interests in gardens & gauguin, beaches & blowjobs, football & furniture. Maybeck & movies. You might not. ☎ 7013

Opportunity Is Not A Lengthy Visitor
GAM, youthful 40s, 5'7", 142lbs. Good looking, intelligent, romantic, buffed gentleman seeks good-looking, masculine, fit, N/S GWM. Interests: Theater, symphony, c+w dancing, traveling abroad. ☎ 6914

Mature Partner Sought
GWM, 46, 175lbs, HIV-, enjoys quiet times at home, taking walks. Lkg for GAM 45-55 to wrap my world around. Not into bars or drugs. ☎ 6915

Seeking Indian Gay Man
GWM, 53, 5'8", 175, brn/bl, beard, HIV-with growing interest and fascination with the customs and people of the sub-continent, seeks relationship with gay Indian man. ☎ 7111

Looking For Something Good
Handsome black muscular Berkeley bottom bald, stache, goatee, 5'11", 33 ISO passionate top for companionship and good sex pluses facial hair, cowboy boots, light alcohol aroma ok. ☎ 7113

Black 47
My body one skin tone smooth, sensual, chest 49", big swollen nipples, love being sucked, hard legs, and big round butt. You 18-20 firstners Blacks, Latinos, Asians only. ☎ 7114

East Bay
6'2", 230lbs 60y/o. I need big cut cocks anyway you want to give it. Naked men with nice feet also a turn on. N/d cockrings please. ☎ 7115

Seek Boyfriend
Boyish GWM 30, Navy brat. 5'7", athletic, enjoys movies, cuddling, dancing, intimacy, romance, current events, dining, hiking, seeks guy to connect for LTR. ☎ 7116

Seeking Soulmate
British poet, playwright, teacher. I'm 50, 5'9", slim, hairy, bearded, uncut, romantic, very loyal. Love all arts including cooking. You are...whoever you are, but please be in shape. ☎ 7117

Boyfriend Search
GBM, 41, 5'10", smooth and trim, healthy, athletic romantic, military professional likes sporting and cultural events, seeks indoor intimacy and LTR. ☎ 7118

Man Hunt
Wanted- one GWM bottom over 45yrs old no exceptions... GBM to 50, 5'9" uncut with solid stocky build, HIV- seeks relationship and monogamy with fun, horny, honest guy in S.F. ☎ 7119

Grandson Wanted
18-32, trim, submissive, spankable, HIV- looking for someone to tend to my house, my properties, and me. I will take good care of you. ☎ 7120

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Topman needs bottom. Oral give /take, lots of hugs and kisses too. Me: attract, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250lbs. brown hair/mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attract GM (white, Asian, Latin), slim, nice buns, smooth/moderate bodyhair. ☎ 6822

Soulmates Sought Oakland
64 year old HIV+ poetic man, smoker, big dude seeks to share a living space, friend or sex good too. Funky versatile fun loving person. ☎ 6917

I'm Not The Marine Corps
But have openings for good men. Total bawd wants only to service hot tops. Be had and clean. Any age, race, size. ☎ 6918

Growl
In my bed. You hairy, man legs spread, offering a feast to your cock-boy. ☎ 6919

Seeking DownTo Earth Bubba Top
Me: HIV+ GWM bottom, handsome 43 190 6'3" med. hairy 6" cut romantic in Rwc you: 30s-40's height, weight proportionate, passionate top man, handsome man hairy + 7" thick f-buddy with heart smoker ok. Serious only HIV+ So Bay Area. ☎ 6920

Let's Undress Each Other
GWM 40 5'9" brown/brown, mustache, in-shape, HIV-, passionate, versatile seeks fit, goodlooking GAM/GLM for oral fun together, maybe more. My place? ☎ 6921

Daddy ISO V/A Daddies Boy
Dominate demanding daddy stocky 40's ISO younger u/c sexual encounters possible Ltr. Into jock straps, underwear, dirty talk, sweat, mutual sucking, role playing No holds barred. ☎ 6922

Handsome FF Top Age 43
Hung, 8x5 1/2. If your shaved, thats a plus Ralph ☎ 6923

East European Or Russian Men
Trim, HIV-, under 50, 7", wanted for oral sex. No reciprocation necessary. I am a GWM in my 50's, 5'10" 150# dark brown hair, somewhat shy. ☎ 6924

I Need A Daddy
Submissive bi WM son, hwp, always naked for daddy. Love to suck gentle, not hairy, older daddy type. Mommy can watch. HIV negative only. ☎ 6925

BAR TALK PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

- Parting Glances ☐
Seeking Relationship ☐
Seeking Adventure ☐
Lesbian ☐
Fetishes ☐
Couples ☐
Others ☐

You must use this form to submit ads. Deadline for ads is **TUESDAY at 5 PM**, for the following week's issue. New ads run for three consecutive weeks. You will be notified by mail with information on how to leave and retrieve messages from your mailbox ad. Print clearly. No ads will be accepted without valid address, telephone number and legible text. The Bay Area Reporter reserves the right to edit ads. One ad per customer per week.

Name _____ Daytime Telephone _____
Address _____ Evening Telephone _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk, Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco, CA 94103

Swallow It Down Real Deep
WM 40's HIV- very masculine dominant, verbal, seeks very submissive HIV- cocksucker with obedient tongue and hungry deep throat for regular long sessions at your place in SF. ☎ 6926

MWM Clean-cut Older ISO Bottom
Pig. For piss-pit-hole-uncut cock etc. You in shape tough tongue. HIV- discreet. Your place. Daytime only Sonoma County. No reciprocation from me. ☎ 6927

Sit On My Face
Well built top, hung big needs, well built WM (20s-30s) with big firm hairy butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 7014

Attn: Bi-Straight Asian Men
Let me give you a deep hot massage, and a hot tung bath between your groins and armpits. I'm strong, muscular and aim to please. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 7015

Looking To Get Mounted
Old yellow are you out there? If you can help this handsome, 6'2", 30yo. Please call, I'm for real, you be to. ☎ 7016

Handsome Top Wants Some Butt!
Or nice soft mouth for pumping. I am in shape, blond, nice butt and have 8 uncut inches. For friendly fun bottoms. ☎ 7017

Virile Alpha Male ISO Pig Btm
4 weekend wallows. Hairy 6'10" WM, got, shaved head, cut castron cock in full bush of musky br public hair. Cumhungry eager insat a must. Short, hairy a+. Tats, rings, raunch a++. Travel req 4 ltr. Woof! Heel. Do it! S 7019

Beer Can Dick??
Down to earth tall GWM 50's HIV-top/oralist non-gym looking for male with average cut fat cock for oral appreciation. Pumpers ok. ☎ 7019

You Are 40-60
I love sucking cock & have my tight hole played with. GWM HIV- 58 short & slim. Also love being fucked bent over, or j/o. Aroma ok. ☎ 7020

Raunch Buddy: Masculine
Guy looking to plow some dirty butt! Prefer big bear types, for hot, dirty man to man action. ☎ 7021

Asian Seeks Hot Playmates
30s, 5'8" 140lb, smooth, cute ass, passionate into hot and sexy lovemaking. You: cute, under 40, in-shape HIV neg. No disease. Most importantly-HORNY! ☎ 7032

Muscle Studs Eat My Big Dick
Or get plowed by sexy dad, 55, 6'1", 170. I'll worship your bulging biceps while you deep throat my 9" meat. Muscle guys only please! ☎ 7023

On My Knees Sucking Your Dick
If you enjoy getting your big dick sucked as much as I enjoy doing it call. Latino and black cock pref. I'm 45, it brown hair, green eyes, 5'8", heavy. ☎ 7024

Bittersweet Dark Chocolate
BM, HIV-, attractive bear ISO WM/LM to indulge our senses, suck/lick nipples, toes, cocks, etc. To taste your skin and fuck your body completely. ☎ 7025

34yrs Tall 175 Brown Eyes ISO
Straight men only who enjoy burning their thick meat into my white hair-less bubblebutt. Firm huge balls A+. Black men and 8in+well. Martinez call me and tease me to the max! ☎ 7026

Top Seeks Asian Ass
Let my tongue, big cock taste and please your butt. GWM 35 good body, good looks. Try me. ☎ 7027

I'm Feeling Kinda Bad Cause Of
Something sad, if you wanna help me out, give me a shout. I need a guy who's cute who'll make me lick his boot, in sum, I need to cum. ☎ 7028

Cocksucker Takes It
Hot lips, tongue suks u, cut WM w/big thick cock n balls kick back for complete satisfaction. Any age if big n hard. ☎ 7029

Submissive Muscular Bottom
Goodlooking GWM, 31 185lbs, 5'11" seeks white tops with 8+ who love to fuck and get sucked. Age 20-40. ☎ 7030

East European Or Russian Men
Trim, HIV- under 50, 7" wanted for oral sex, no reciprocation necessary. I am a guy in my 50's, 5'10" 150# dark brown hair, somewhat shy. ☎ 7031

Black Bottom Seeks Top
Dominant top verbal, raunch, kinky, sleaze, a plus. Available eve & some weekends. ☎ 7022

Treat You Like A Woman In Bed?
Dominant, affectionate black male, 41, 5'10", 175, masculine, muscular, discreet, conservative, straight appearing seeks masculine, muscular, conservative, straight appearing white male to give me some pussy and service my dick. ☎ 7128

Just Shut -Up And Ride
WM, 34, 5'10" 200lb blond/blue muscle hunk-48" ch 32" w 18" arms-wants good looking masculine men to get pumped or pump me. Also love to get massaged and jerked off anytime. ☎ 7122

Butt Munch
Let us explore the art of rimming your butt my face or vice versa. If you like GWM seeks other GWM for fun times. ☎ 7123

Blue-Collar Weekend Sex Buddy
Me: HIV+ 34yrs, 5'11" 190lbs tall smooth bottom boy, br eyes & hair, clean shaven, men bw 35-40 wet kisses A+ -hairy chest & body A+ average shape, no att-no head games. ☎ 7124

Daddy Likes Boy Butt
Handsome 50yo ape man stud, 6', 175, s&p, beard HIV+, seeks pussy boy with slim to muscular build for casual safe sex. You have flat stomach, round butt. ☎ 7125

Policemen, Firemen or Military
I want to service you on a regular basis, seeking men who are hot and in good shape. I'm WM, 57, 5'11", 168lb. Just lay back and enjoy! Call now!! ☎ 7126

Mellow Mouth 4 Manly Men
Friendly type with subtle technique will help you unload. I'm 47, slender, short beard, seek well hung face fucker, my place, car helpful. Be 35-50, trim, together, Black/White. ☎ 7121

Cock Worshiper Wanted
Hot, hung stud, early 30's, seeks dudes who know how to service a big hard dick. I want cock connoisseurs who can appreciate my beautiful piece. ☎ 7127

Do You Like Em Big And Tall?
Young 47 GWM, 6'4", 245#, b/bl, 6" uncut bottom man ISO average to xtall, uncut top men. Age/race unimportant, personality is. Hairy A+, buddies wanted. ☎ 7129

Discreet Handsome Bi-WM
Seek very discreet professional bi-WM, 25-45, to receive oral service weekdays. Uniforms, shirt and tie A+, must be fit, cut 7" +. Like glory holes? San Mateo. ☎ 7130

FETISHES

Daytime Asshole-Eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro!! ☎ 7038

Large Young Smooth Body Types
Wish to meet 18-25 or so with large smooth shaved upper bodies, esp-body builder, to put on my 2 camcorders--the taller, the heavier, the better. ☎ 6928

Can You Blow Yourself?
Is sucking yourself off your favorite pastime? Like an appreciative audience? Slim healthy senior guy would love to watch. I'm 5'8", balding, dark beard. Call me. ☎ 6929

Are You I.S.O.: 24/7 Slave?
GL/GWM 38, 195, 5'11", in SF... you have called 3 times with cell phone number. I have tried to call 12-15 times, but can't get enough!! Please leave other means to contact sir! ☎ 6930

Rim Chair Top ISO Hot Mouth
GWM, attractive, loves to sit on a rim chair and talk dirty while you eat, suck and lick my tasty hole. Call if you like to pigout eating butt. ☎ 6936

Seeking Leg Amputee
GM 39, seeking male leg amputee for safe erotic times, enjoy movies, dinners, quiet times. I'm sane, sincere and fun. Looking for that special man with that unique quality to satisfy my curiosity. ☎ 6937

Slave Seeks Master
Experienced leather slave, seeks to meet and serve Master Sadist in his dungeon or "playspace". Desires bondage & discipline from an experienced Top Man. Slave is 41 yo, 5'11", beard, hairy, goodlooking, football player build (work out daily), drug free. ☎ 6933

Raunchy Pigs, Punks, Party Boys,
Skin wanted. Sweaty, unwashed pissy bodies + clothing appreciated. Cum share your body tastes & smells. ☎ 6938

Thirsty 1942 Model
Desires to give toilet, rim, and cum service to dominant male. I'm white & slim. You needn't be. Just give orders. Humiliation & groups A+. ☎ 6939

Wanna Be Dog Owner
ISO yng. dog to train by yng. GWM. gdlkg. Be submissive, fun, detail-oriented, lite mood sirius focus, beck & call, cute & healthy. ☎ 7033

Black Top
Kinky GWM lean smooth big nips hot ass ISO dominant big dicked black top/daddy/master into extended fucking, service, nipple play w/s/b/d. ☎ 7040

Asian Fetish, Feet, Uncut Cock
Beautiful Asian in Kimono, smooth, slim, uncut 8", seeks experienced master to give boy intrusive exam, instruments, cock torment, then give prolonged oral to get/sha house boy's cock and legs/toes. ☎ 7034

Piss! Piss! Piss!
Extremely horny senior 70, 6", 170# 7" uncut ISO heavy piss buddies any age size or color. Bears a plus! ☎ 7035

Like To Eat Your Own ...?
Let me watch you throw your legs back while you jack a load. I'll do the same. Hot talk, big-cocks, self-suckers, exhibitionists, a plus. ☎ 7036

Top Seek Friendly Rimmers
Handsome uncut, hairy chest, in-shape well hung top with a bubble butt wants some tongue action for fun and friendly rimmers. Let do it. ☎ 7037

Butt Play
Masculine 33, 5'9", 155, 9" with P.A. loves laying on a sling and have my butt played with toys, dildos, f.f, lather, kink. ☎ 7039

Master 40's, Experienced
Looking for whipping boy/bondage slave- eager to please, and serve. Subject-20-38 with some training and the real drive to belong. Subjects body to be dedicated to the satisfaction of its master, Limits respected but expanded over time. ☎ 7041

Scruffy Types
I've always been attracted to unshaven, unkempt derelicts, street people (not hustler), scruffy types, Tenderloin & 6th St hurs (gay & mixed), ISO others who identify with this. I'm a WLM 42, 6', 155lbs. ☎ 6940

Breeches
GWM, 44, 5'9", 185lb, crew cut, hairy, hung, verbal, love wearing police uniforms, particularly leather breeches. Seeking uniformed sex -buddy for horny times. ☎ 7131

Black Top
Kinky GWM lean smooth big nips hot ass ISO dominant big dicked black top/daddy/master into extended fucking, service, nipple play w/s/b/d. ☎ 7040

What's The Buzz?
Shave it all off! GWM wants to make you smooth! Ready to lose that stache/beard? Love to take it off for you! Bodies, balls,rotch too! All ages/types. ☎ 7136

Boot licker! Piss Drinker!
Mature cock sucker with respectful attitude wants to service well-endowed men who know what they want! ☎ 7132

Throat Open At 5:30 am?
Middle-age but hung Oakland man needs a traveling deep throat expert to drain my 5:30am hard on. All races, body types welcome. No beepers, beards. ☎ 7133

Silicon Valley Spanking Fun!
Cute/handsome WM, young 42, 5'9" 205 with a round spankable butt bends over for young or old and gives it good to "Bad Boys" 18-30. ☎ 7134

Your Feet My Face
Goodlooking, masculine guy wants to worship your feet with my hands and mouth, kick back while I make you and your feet feel good. Curious? All welcome. ☎ 7135

Nasty Raunchy Pigs Wanted
Skins, gutter punks, party boys great, sweaty, unwashed bodies and clothing appreciated. Cum share your body tastes and smells. ☎ 7137

Great Butt Service
For younger guys who like to show off their hole and get it sniffed and eaten out by a hot, masculine guy. ☎ 7138

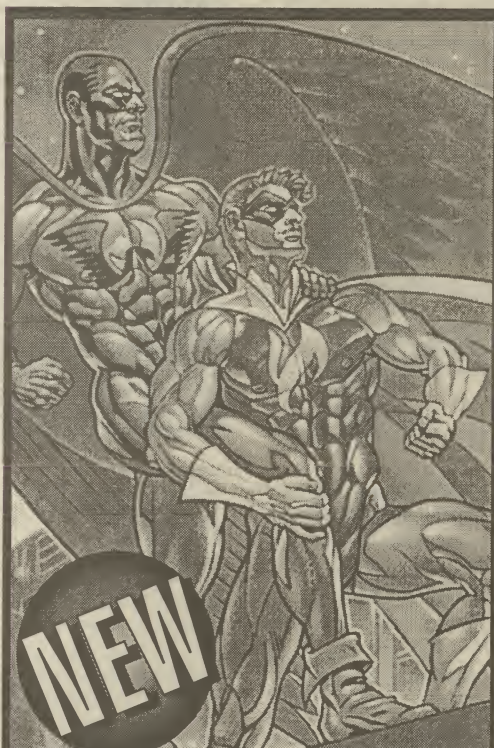
OTHER

A Forceful Man Is Desired...
If you are interested in a discreet erotic dominance (s/m,b/d) over another person, I am available. Older Englishman, trim, durable. ☎ 6937

Self-Suck! Auto-Fellatio!
Self-suckers' showoff meetings; small groups. Can give tips, techniques; help going down. Optional gifts; video of you and other hot self-suckers, limbering bodywork, steam bath, electric massagers. ☎ 7142

Swing Daddy
Really! Let's dance! Fit, fun 45yo prof GWM (lead) seeking younger GM (follow) to West Coast swing, two-step, waltz, etc. Some experience necessary but the package includes weekly lessons by prof dance teacher. Prefer medium to slight build guy mid 20s to 30s. Call ad for info. ☎ 7139

Canadian (East European).
31, average looks, rather lonely, sincere and compassionate, would like to learn more about California. ☎ 7140



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YOUR TICKET GOOD ALL DAY!
COME EARLY! STAY AS LONG AS YOU LIKE! SEE IT ALL!

Soul man

Keith Boykin on 'Respecting the Soul'

by Terrance Boykin

In the early 1990s, Keith Boykin (no relation) traveled across the country talking with lesbians, gays, spiritual leaders and politicians in search of a clearer portrait of black and gays in America. In 1996, the voices heard in the pages of Boykin's book *One More River To Cross: Black and Gay in America* revealed the myriad of stereotypes and truths blurred within the combined realities of black heritage and black queer orientation.

A finalist for the Lambda Literary Award, *River To Cross* balanced the writer's personal experiences as a gay man with the candid truths behind the political and social homophobic arguments used by spiritual conservatives to propagate intolerance and fear throughout society, and within the ranks of the black heterosexual community.

With two years under his belt as special assistant to President Clinton, the former Executive Director of the National Black Leadership Forum is looking out across the same rivers that divide the black gay/lesbian/bisexual/transgender community from family and spiritual growth. This time, Boykin is looking through the lens of personal development — from within.

Currently on a 17-city tour for his new book, *Respecting the Soul: Daily Reflections for Black Lesbians and Gays* (Avon, \$10), the author reveals some of the internal gems discovered from his experiences on the road in the early '90s. His second book to date brings together the wisdom and uplifting insights from the diaspora of black heroes, (s)heroes and renowned genderbenders such as James Baldwin, Josephine Baker, Nelson Mandela, Alice Walker, Sylvester, Angela Davis, Alvin Ailey, Nona Hendryx, E. Lynn Harris, Carl Lewis and RuPaul.

"I've been a very political person most of my life, and the need for spiritual healing in our community was somewhat of an awakening for me," Boykin said in a recent interview. From urban centers to small cities in the Midwest, the up-close and personal stories of gays and lesbians singing in the choirs of homophobic churches, dealing with unsupportive relatives, suffering through negative relationships and questioning the value of coming out of the closet planted the inspiration for *Respecting the Soul*.

"During my first book tour, it became clear to me that even though people really appreciated a nonfictional perspective of the black lesbian and gay experience, many readers expressed a need to hear other peoples' stories and to learn more about how to deal with the struggles within their lives," Boykin said. "At least in the black community, many of the people weren't talking about the Employment Non-Discrimination Act or same-sex marriage issues, the focus was more personal than political. I felt it was important to develop and explore writing something that would be helpful to individuals who were engaged in this journey of reconciling their sexual orientation,

their race and other aspects of their identity."

One day at a time

Respecting the Soul's key ingredients are love and respect for oneself and personal responsibility. The pocket-sized guide consists of a reflection for each day of the calendar year, and each month focuses on a specific virtue. Some of the entries focus on historic events throughout black history, while others offer character-building inspiration. "The themes are focused on issues and virtues that are important to our community. I've selected twelve virtues. January is Faith. I feel we have to build faith in ourselves to practice the other virtues. February is Love. The overwhelming importance of self-love and love for others is the beginning of anything we do. The important lesson is to love ourselves unconditionally — sometimes it is very difficult for us to experience, but it's important for us to try. Unconditionally means you don't love yourself only when you have a great job, the best relationship, or when you're young and you feel gorgeous. You love yourself at whatever age and status you may have in life."

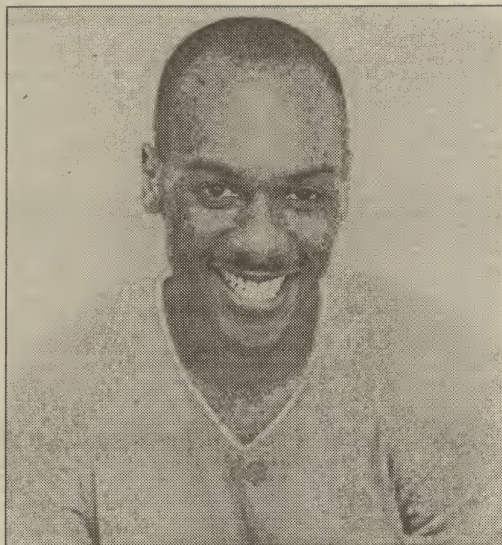
The importance of personal responsibility is another consistent theme throughout the book. The chosen quotes build insight into the lives of historians of the past and popular movers and shakers of the present. Setting the stage for personal reflection, the introduction expresses the view that the primary challenges facing black lesbians and gays are internal, not external. For decades, New Age thinkers have expounded the paradigms of fear and of love. Boykin says he supports the theory as well. "Everything in life boils down to the juxtaposition of the two. The pure challenge in life is for us to relearn to love ourselves and to unlearn fear. Love is when we have the ability to trust our partners and to care for them without the fear of uncertainty of the future. Fear tells us not to come out of the closet in certain circumstances, because if we do, we're not sure of what will happen to us. The internal challenges are the internalization of racism, sexism, homophobia and biases in society that teach us to think less of ourselves. We put ourselves in the fear position before we even get to the point of challenging ourselves or the status quo."

Boykin continues this examination with various quotes, anecdotes and insights into history throughout the calendar, along with exercises in the virtues of Honesty, Responsibility, Purpose and the importance of exercising compassion in everyday living. November and December focus on Balance and Serenity. "Serenity is very important. It is easy to get caught up in trying our problems, until we feel hopeless at the end of the process. We get discouraged, because we haven't achieved what we wanted to achieve. Serenity is about accepting that we are exactly where we need to be in our lives. There is something to learn at every turn in life, and reasons why we need to be where we are."

Still at the forefront of politi-

cal, economic and cultural advancement for black gays and lesbians, Keith Boykin feels that personal development is integral to political maturation. "One of the most important things we can do is to be open and honest about who we are. It is important to integrate your sexual orientation the same way you integrate your race, your gender and other parts of your identity — so it becomes seamless." ▼

Keith Boykin will be appearing at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street on Thurs., April 22 at 7:30 p.m. There will be a book signing and a brief discussion.



Author Keith Boykin

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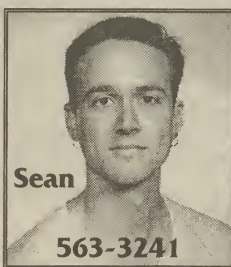
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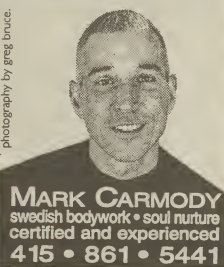
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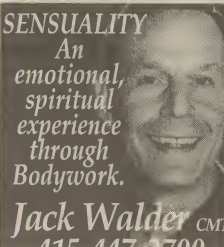
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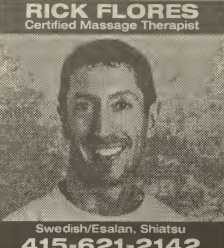
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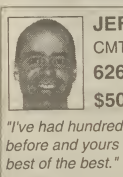
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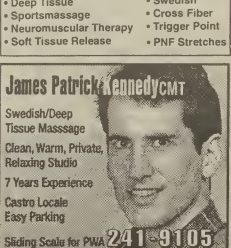
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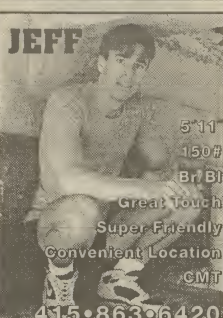
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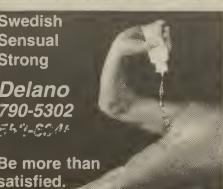


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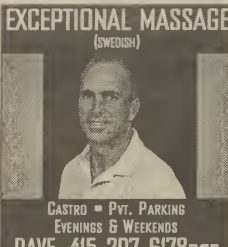


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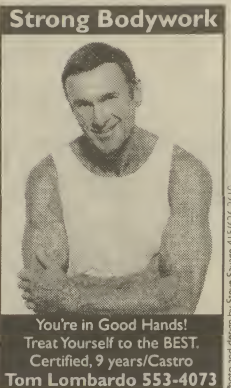
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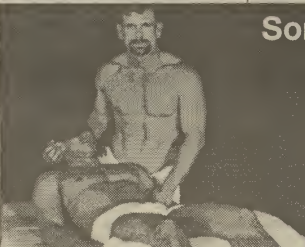
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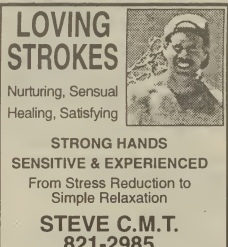
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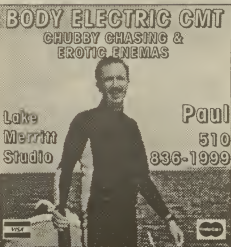


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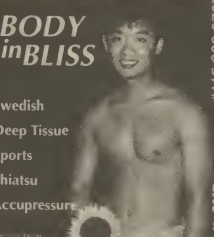
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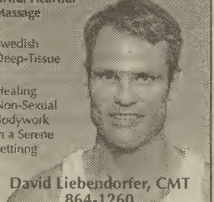
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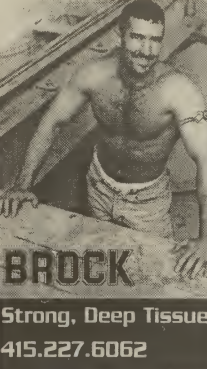
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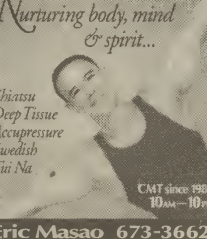
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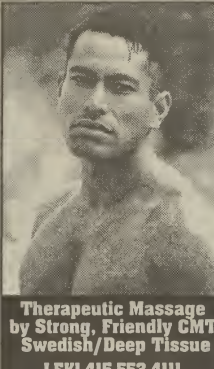
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Tantra, Breath, Intimacy,
Body Electric Grad
Day & Evening Appointments Available
Pager **679-0262**



**Therapeutic
Massage**



1 hr \$45
castro loc
Tom DePue CMT
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Come feel the
heat of Thailand.
Sensual Thai MSG
by Kob 346-7975
ASIAN JOCK

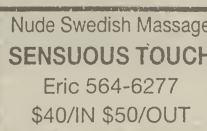


TOM
10am-11pm
459-4217



MARIN/SF

Nude Swedish Massage
SENSUOUS TOUCH
Eric 564-6277
\$40/IN \$50/OUT



Midwestern Guy attr broad shoulders
muscular dark hair gives a great
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6'2" BEEFY BLONDE, 26
Very handsome. Deep, Relaxing
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Total bodywork by exp body worker
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men of color welcome (510) 836-1999
<http://www.massagerotic.com>. Paul

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Massage therapy. One-on-one or two
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Couples welcome. In/Out Shane &
Peter. (415) 487-9809

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Sensual massage by nude masseur
Bob \$25/Hr. 510-843-4408

WEEKDAY RUBDOWN
\$40 by smooth tanned gymed
Italian 23yo, great bod, great tits.
Oil massage, easy off 280 in SF
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HEALING MASSAGE
From experienced professional
Swedish, Deep Tissue, Shiatsu
Tom * CMT * 415 260-2951

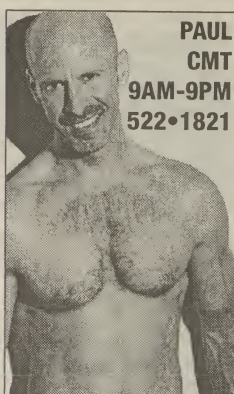
**IN SONOMA COUNTY,
CALL JOE, C.M.T.**
For a firm & satisfying hands-on
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Touch of Heaven Sensual & Relaxing
Hwy 280 & Mission \$40/\$80 out 333-3424

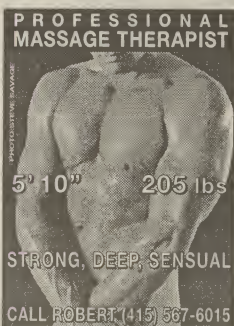
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other chronic problems.
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PERSONALS

MASSAGE



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522-1821



PROFESSIONAL MASSAGE THERAPIST
5'10" 205 lbs
STRONG, DEEP, SENSUAL
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Full-Body Swedish
Aloe/Hot Oil
\$75 90 min.
cash & stud. disc.
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Relaxing &/or Erotic by a very
Smth Nude Masc. Asian 560-6353 ^{E18}

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David \$50 outonly 626-1951 ^{E16}

MIGHTY HANDS OF JOY
Strong work by a caring
professional. Swedish, deep
tissue work. In/Out, Parking
Clint Joste, CMT * 626-1352 ^{E15}

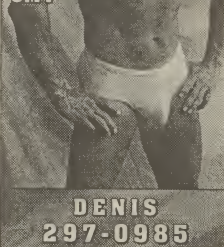
Smooth Relaxing Hands 6'1, 185
Handsome Rob Pgr:(415) 245-1984
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Pro Bodywork, healing, Shiatsu
DEEP MASSAGE
13 yrs. exp. From \$40 Ed 697-4388 ^{E15}

Hot Nude Masculine Muscular Guy
Sensual expert hands * 699-9391
HOTELS/IN YOUR HOME ^{E16}

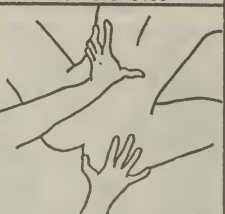
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Seeking muscular men 25-50yr olds
Massaged by sexy muscular 30 yr.
To schedule Pg 415-303-4895 In/Out ^{E16}

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Butt Adventures
Journey into butt attention. Explore
rare erotic BUTT TECHNIQUES
delightfully blended into
FULL BODY massage.
By Appointment, \$80. San Bruno.
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PHILLIP
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Bear/Overall Massage 339-7465 ^{E15}

Cute Nude Muscular Sensual Guy
Complete Bodywork 510-819-9419
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NURTURING MESSAGE
Soothing Asian touch Avail short
notice. CMT 753-0840 * Achilles ^{E15}

S.F., E.B. HOT SENSUAL
Erotic massage done in the nude by
6'2", 185, Italian huge \$45 In
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Dad exotic erotic rubs! Wet suit
bareass your place or the tubs?
You pay only expenses and tip. ^{E20}

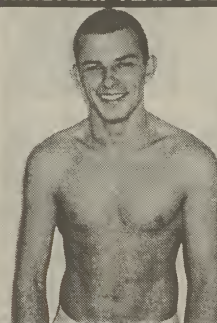
NON-SEXUAL
Superb 90 min. massage. Call 4 apt
(415) 351-1999 * Nob Hill ^{E15}

Young guy to massage your cares
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-long, & slow-my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, ranch.
Lord 431-0959

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Body/Foot Worship
Discount for 2 clients
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Seeking men to be in all-male fetish videos:
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leather... Kinky? call (415) 436-9840
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Gd Lking Foot top 39yo, 6'1", 195#
Scott (415) 790-0902 In/Out calls ^{E18}

Goodlooking, 6'1", 165 Lbs
ASIAN TOP
\$80/\$100 * JIM 267-1817 ^{E15}

Pec & Nipple work. Kory
Kory 773-9130 ^{E15}

MUSCLE JOCK
Black, Smooth, Masculine & Sexy
Total Stud Pgr. # (415) 338-8876. ^{E8}

Horny Stud. Open to all fantasies.
Hung long & XXXthick. Sexy quality.
STRICTLY TOP
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Discreet, 773-9130 Kory ^{E15}

WHEN YOU WANT A MAN NOT A BOY
Thirty something with good looks &
a sense of humor looking 4 adventure.
I'm well built, aggressive top!
XXXHUNGXXXTHICK!!!
Max 415-431-6253 \$90. 24hrs. ^{E15}

MIKE, 30, 5'10", 200#, Bld/Blu
Clean-cut, Muscle Hunk
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Hard raw tight long thick, juicy stud
A real 9x7 Experienced Top
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SUPER THICK UNCUT TOP 9"
masculine, cleancut athletic build.
Goodlooking satisfying. In. Out 24hrs
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BLK HANDSOME STUDTOP
Very discrete and friendly, clean,
slim, built with boyish looks and
well-endowed. Out only.
CEDRIC PGR VM 510-639-6576 ^{E16}


22yo Frat boy Hunk
Solid muscular pecs, abs, & legs.
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#s, 30"w, 8"ct 739-7312 ^{E16}

LEATHER TOP!
Handsome, Expert Master
Light To Heavy Sensual S/M
TOM 415-487-1296 ^{E15}

Kicks back for service * 24 Hours
10X6"UNCUT
Big fat tool 487-1679 Pgr 678-1005 ^{E15}

Ready And Willing
WILL FILL YOU UP.
VIDEO/MAG MODEL.
5'10" 165# 9" CUT.
IN/OUT \$100/120.
865-0144

TOP

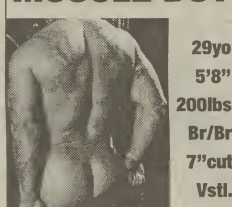


978-NUDE
HANDSOME, CLEAN-CUT, 36YO TOP
HOT, FRIENDLY. 5'7", 155#. IN/OUT \$150



ITALIAN BODYBUILDER
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29yo
5'8"
200lbs
Br/Br
7"cut
Vstl.
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Tall, muscular, great pecs, 9"
Masculine Good Looks 764-6280 ^{E15}

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Sling & Rim Seat. Derek 538-9588 ^{E16}

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39yo top 6'1", 195# 7"uncut, flat top
Gd lking into bondage, S/M, W/S,
F/F, CBT, violet wand, toys, boots.
Beginner? Have playspace & equip.
Scott (415) 790-0902 Pg# In or Out ^{E18}

Italian stud, black hair brn eyes
6ft, swimmer's build, defined chest &
legs, bedroom eyes, beautiful ass,
8" uncut. Outcalls, Pref/hotels. Gino
22, model looks Hourly/over night
Don't you want it now. 436-0402 VM ^{E15}

5'8" 140# 30 yo lean and hairy
INTENSE FIST
Small expert hands. Out only
Call Digger 415-215-8396 ^{E16}

Hung Lean Smooth Cute
CUTE SMOOTH BOY
23, 6' 145#, blond/blue
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Masculine 32yr Stud W/a Furry
Stomach, Full Bush, Hard 8x6 Cut
& Chin Slappin' Low Hangers 6ft
190lbs of Solid Muscle 207-9045 ^{E15}



you fine
kink
fetish
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private st space
luther 272-5847

Satisfy your erotic desires
ASIAN* *790-7888 ^{E15}

SWEET BUT AGGRESSIVE
Looking for an escort that treats
you right? Then I'm your guy, 8xx
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pleasure. In/Out David 902-3841. ^{E16}

Small, firm butt, 9" rod, 140lbs,
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32, 5'10", 160#, buzzcut, sweet
face, bubble butt, with a thick
tool for the job. Andy 708-5388 ^{E15}

20YO ASIAN BOY
Doug 5'8" 130# is amiable, fun, and
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anyone. Provides companionship and
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man. I am smooth, boyish, and good
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Big Vy. Hot Porno Man Loves To
Drive (Either End) In/Out 313-9946 ^{E15}

CUTE 25YR OLD
5'8" 135# smooth clean cut
Discrete brown/brown Chad 415-
241-9381 Pgr. 303-6165 \$100 ^{E15}

8" Blow Buddy/Ken/346-4966/\$60 ^{E18}

COWBOY FROM IDAHO
New- Let me rope your Fantasies
Into reality-in/Out 24hrs 307-9123 Dean ^{E17}

21yo, 5'9", 150#, blond & blue
BEAUTIFUL BOY
A smooth, lean, athletic body,
gorgeous face & friendly smile
Ryan 415-235-3469 out only \$150 ^{E19}

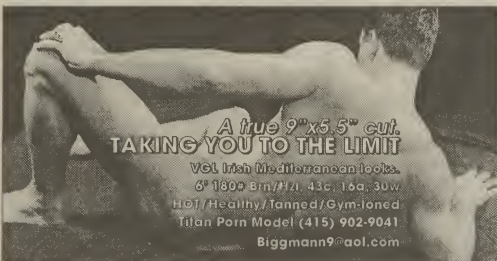
CONSTRUCTION WORKER BRICK HOUSE
6' 205#s of thick, hairy muscles.
X-handsome face w/beard. Easy to
intense. No drugs. 201-6533 (out) ^{E19}

ALWAYS
play safe

just a little reminder...

BAY AREA REPORTER

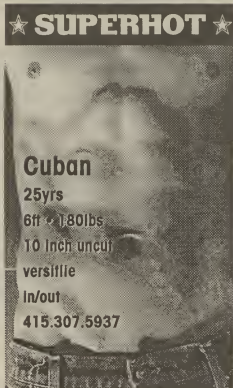
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A true 9"x5" cut.
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 VGL Irish Mediterranean looks.
 6' 180# Brn/HtL 43c. 16a. 30w.
 HOT/Healthy/Tanned/Gym-toned
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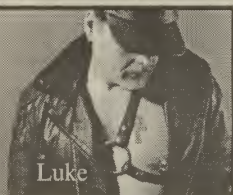
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 6'3 Butch Top In/Out
STEVE (415) 313-4041



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 25yrs
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 versatile
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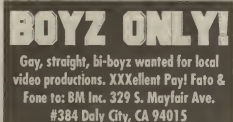
Luke



SEXY BOY W/O ATTITUDE
RICK 415-720-1075



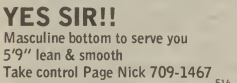
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 Are you a man with a unique imagination?
 Special cravings? Enjoy erotic
 adventure tailored to your special kink.
 Mild to edge. Private playroom.
Call LEATHERMASTER
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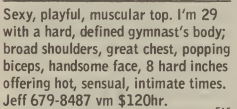
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 Gay, straight, bi-boyz wanted for local
 video productions. XXXellent Pay! Fato &
 Fone to: BM Inc. 329 S. Mayfair Ave.
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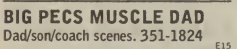
GENTLE&AGRESIVE
 Very experienced top, well endowed
 handsome, sexy & very masculine. Will
 fulfill all your fantasies 207-6117



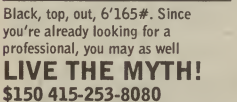
YES SIR!!
 Masculine bottom to serve you
 5'9" lean & smooth
 Take control Page Nick 709-1467



Sexy, playful, muscular top. I'm 29
 with a hard, defined gymnast's body;
 broad shoulders, great chest, popping
 biceps, handsome face, 8 hard inches
 offering hot, sensual, intimate times.
 Jeff 679-8487 vm \$120hr.



BIG PECS MUSCLE DAD
 Dad/son/coach scenes. 351-1824



Black, top, out, 6'165#. Since
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\$150 415-253-8080



Hndsm intlgnt cocky Italian top
CHOKO ON THIS!
 Beautiful 10x7 thick cut salami
 34yrs 6' 150# 30w hry chst/legs
 naturally dominant masc gentle
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 or affectionate avail for worship
 oral. Marin-SF-Bay Area.
 Outcalls/hotel Tom 415-256-6743



Distinguished Escort
 Handsome age 43 hung 8x5 1/2
 \$60 out only Dave 437-0772



SAN JOSE SEXY
 Tall, dark, handsome Asian guy
 27y/o 6' 180# \$100
 Derek 408-920-2145



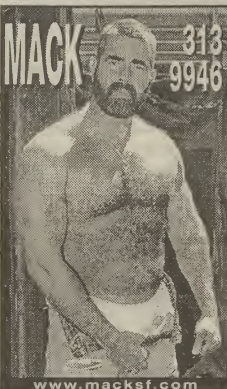
Dominant Leatherman
 39yo,
 SM, WS,
 CBT,
 F/F,
 Fetish,
 Slave
 Training.
 6'1", 195#
 Brown Hair,
 flat top,
 Blue Eyes,
 mustache,
 7" Uncult.



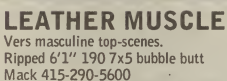
Beginners Welcome
 Have equipment and playspace.
Scott (415) 790-0902 IN/OUT
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 handsome,
 29 y, 5' 9",
 150 lb.,
 8" uncult, 100-/90min
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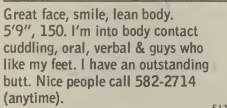
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 Vers masculine top-scenes.
 Ripped 6'1" 190 7x5 bubble butt
 Mack 415-290-5600



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Great face, smile, lean body.
 5'9", 150. I'm into body contact
 cuddling, oral, verbal & guys who
 like my feet. I have an outstanding
 butt. Nice people call 582-2714
 (anytime).



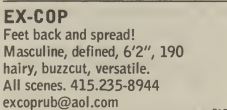
27yo hot Latin top wants u to escort
 ur time 32w, 155#, 5'7"; uncult
ANDRES 807 5079



FRIENDLY BLOND BUBBLE BUTT-BIG-PEKS-HORNY-MOUTH CUTE MUSCLEBOD
 510-549-0505
 Cell# 510-407-9748



DADDYS HOME AND
 Wnts Svc 6'1", 235#, Allmscl, Hry
 Vry Hot, 8x7 Holelover, Page 313-9946



EX-COP
 Feet back and spread!
 Masculine, defined, 6'2", 190
 hairy, buzzcut, versatile.
 All scenes. 415.235-8944
 excoprub@aol.com



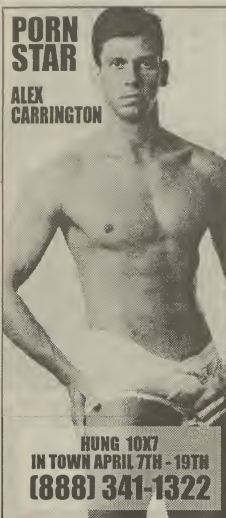
Beautiful gym tone Latin
 hot hung "8" hard thick tool in
 Out calls discreet
 Kith 415 560 5835



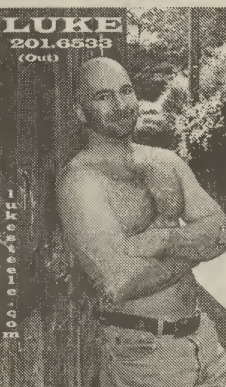
HOT HAWAIIAN FILIPINO
 28, smooth & muscular for massage
 & erotic play. Alan (415) 285-1967




9 INCHES & FAT
 Super cute! Athletic & tall. 32
 6' 1 1/2", 200lbs. Very clean into
 safe fun. \$100 Steve 709-1602



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(888) 341-1322



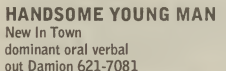
LUKE
 201.6533
 (Out)
 I like to be a little bit of a tease




LEATHER KINK
 LONG, SENSUAL SESSIONS
 WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
 TAKING HIS TIME. TALL &
 BUILT. FULL PLAYROOM.
RICK 431-0959



BEEFY BEARDED TOP
 Very handsome/friendly
 versital top in/out
 Rex pgr. 225-5484



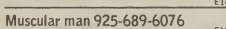
HANDSOME YOUNG MAN
 New In Town
 dominant oral verbal
 out Damion 621-7081



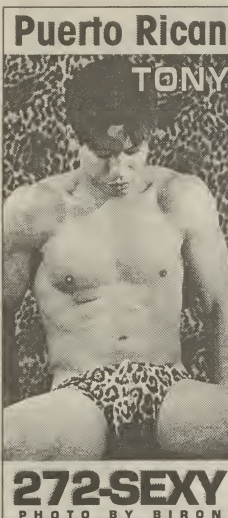
UNCUT RUSSIAN BOY
 Handsome, green eyed 22 y/o
 Sexy & affectionate - a great
 kisser! Travis 790-6830. Out.




Page me anytime on (415) 414 1114
V CUTE BRITISH LAD
 with great ass outcalls.



Muscular man 925-689-6076



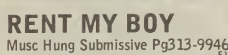
Puerto Rican
TONY
272-SEXY
 PHOTO BY BIRON



Oh, Daddy!
 10.5 X 7.5
 6'3"
 200
 47
 415.224.9382



Kevin
 790-5071



RENT MY BOY
 Musc Hung Submissive Pg313-9946



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 Lean, smooth leather top, 32,
 gives it like you need it.
 Sm/bd/fi/ws, dog/slave training
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 Lean, tight, muscular body, ripped abs,
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 My touch... natural ecstasy.
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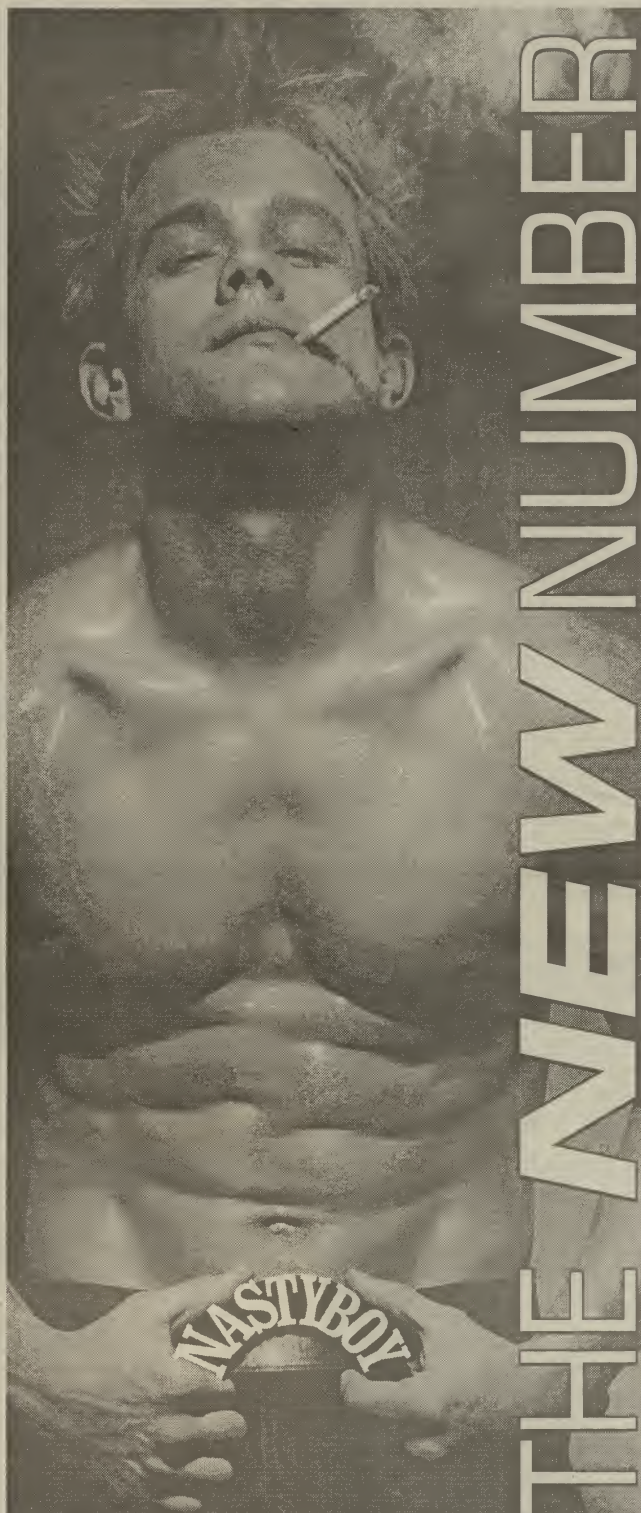
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